

# THE Nonconformist.

THE DISSIDENCE OF DISSENT AND THE PROTESTANTISM OF THE PROTESTANT RELIGION.

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## Eccliaastical Affairs.

### NOT SO BAD AS IT SEEMS.

For darkness shows us worlds of light  
We never saw by day.

EVEN so. It is in the darkest hour that we discern the best reasons, and the brightest encouragements, for continuance in well-doing. Of course, to us the enterprise we have undertaken, and in the prosecution of which we have made large advances, is believed to be in accordance with right—a line of action which is suggested by what appears to us to be due to reason, to justice, and to religion. We take for granted that the majority of our fellow-countrymen do not yet see the question of disestablishment and disendowment in the light in which we see it. A considerable proportion of that majority, as we all know, is made up of men who have never seriously taken the subject into consideration at all. We cannot fairly suppose that the adherents of the cause of unlimited beer, whose votes went a long way towards shaping the results of the late general election, even although they found it convenient to embark in the same boat with the clergy and friends of the Established Church, gave much weight to the arguments which powerfully operated on the minds of their allies. It has been rather by accident than otherwise that zeal for "the national religion" has been associated with zeal for "the national beverage." The same line of remark is applicable to other combinations out of which has proceeded what is called—and what for the time being may be considered—the verdict of the country. When we come to analyse the influences and forces to which it may be traced, we come likewise to the conclusion that they were not intended to be, and that they are not, direct testimony against the cause which Liberationists have at heart. They have been overtaken by a political tempest from the effects of which they have suffered in common with the Liberal party with which they had been wont to act. They are in no worse position than those sections of the party which had persistently rejected the object of their policy. They suffer, no doubt, in the common misfortune which has overtaken the professed friends of political progress. But in some respects the opportunity brought within their reach by the common overthrow may, if promptly and earnestly availed of, conduce to, rather than retard, the ultimate realisation of their wishes.

We Liberationists have no special reason for downheartedness. The collapse, spoken of by the Press, of the Liberal party, does not materially alter our position. Five years of Tory Administration may, perhaps, better serve us than five years of a Liberal Administration having no sympathy with our special object. The utter dislocation of the Liberals effected by the impulsive and sudden movement of Mr. Gladstone and his colleagues—greatly to be deplored as it may be on many grounds—brings to us some advantages, the true value of which we are bound to put to the proof. It cannot be denied that the late Premier threw in our way many serious impediments; that the hostility which he felt and declared in reference to the purpose we have in view neutralised, we will not say the attachment, but the active expression of it, of many who were disposed to go with us; that he had it in his power while in office, and freely used that power, to retard our progress at every step; that his word was a talismanic spell powerful enough to prevent the doing of many things which needed to be done; and that his high position and all-pervading influence rendered the community far less susceptible to the impressions we wish to make upon it than it would have been under other circumstances. All that has now come to an end—for the present at least. The wand of the magician has been broken. The Liberal party is said to be without a leader capable of wielding the authority to be derived from its various sections. As an army, it is questionable whether it can command the services of an efficient general-in-chief. As a party, it is doubtful whether it can enunciate a distinct policy.

This, then, is our opportunity. We know what we want, and we know by what means it must be compassed. We seek no Parliamentary leaders, because for the present we can contemplate no Parliamentary action. The land is before us and we must "go up and possess it." The Liberal party is perplexed and uncertain—we must leave it to them to become resolved as events may determine. We, however, are under no necessity to share their perplexity. We have often threatened—more frequently than wisely—to pursue our own course irrespective of their disapproval. But we are free now to adopt whatever method may commend itself to us as the likeliest to lead up to our own ends—"our own," we say, though in truth we mean those national ends which we seek to promote. All the difficulties and considerations of delicacy which a short time since interposed between us and the vigorous prosecution of our enterprise, have been swept out of the way. We have lost nothing in the late conflict but our own embarrassments. Our position, at this moment, is preferable to what it was six weeks ago. We are no longer linked to allies anxious to disarm us. In common with them we have sustained a sudden defeat. Possibly, what we have proposed to accomplish has, to some extent, contributed to that defeat. But, on review of all that has taken place, we think ourselves warranted in coming to the conclusion that the work before us is easier, and the way to effect it plainer, freer from impediments, surer in its issue, than ever it has been.

All this, however, presupposes that we deem the end at which we are aiming worth the cost

of the means we shall have to employ. It certainly will not be achieved by either faint-heartedness or half-heartedness. We must be prepared for sacrifices of various kinds—of narrow views, for instance, of sectarian preferences, of social desirabilities, of personal ease, and of pecuniary expenditure. The ground we have to cover and to cultivate is extensive. The lesson we have to instil into the public mind is simple—so simple, indeed, as to render it difficult to draw popular attention towards it. And it may seem that the wave of Conservative feeling which has come over English society within the last twelve months offers but a dim prospect of enlisting public opinion in support of the cause we are anxious to commend to it. But let us bear in mind that political progress is a normal law of civilised life. Toryism may be in vogue just now, but Toryism was never destined to continue in vogue. National feeling will be greatly altered by the ascendancy of Toryism—peradventure, not many months hence. What we do, as it were, in the dark hours, returning light will reveal. The Liberals have no policy—we must furnish them with one. It is said that they have lost their leaders—it is just in the absence of leaders that we must come to the practical determination which leaders may adopt.

The cause, dear Brutus, is not in our stars,  
But in ourselves, that we are underlings.

Everything, or well nigh everything, depends upon our own spirit just now. Courage is the quality of mind most needed by Liberationists—courage to peer into the surrounding darkness. The more steadily they look into its depths, the more certainly they will discern the light which is beyond them. The best soldiers are they who know how to look undauntedly at what others might characterise as a dismal prospect—they who without troubling themselves with what may chance to be the circumstances with which they are environed, march on at the command of faith and duty. Verily they have their reward.

### THE RECENT LONDON MISSION.

A WITNESS in a trial at the assizes being asked his age, is reported to have replied, "Much the same age as other people's." A difficulty like that in which the questioner was left by this reply must have been felt by all who have endeavoured to gain from the daily newspapers a definite conception of the character of the recent London Mission. You may affirm or deny almost everything you please of it. We are assured that it succeeded abundantly, and that it has utterly failed, and there are facts to lend colour to both representations. The three bishops who exercise jurisdiction within the metropolitan district combined their endeavours to induce their clergy to unite in one great effort, but, as every one who knew the parishes of London expected, they did no more than give an impulse which set the clergy at work in divergent directions. In some cases they could not even do as much as this, and some clergymen simply ignored the pastoral counsels of the bishop, and without even taking the trouble, like the Rev. Harry Jones, to assign a reason for their abstinence, left their churches shut up during the mission week. The influence of the bishops over the clergy is greatly overrated. They can do very little indeed to help a parish in difficulties, and there are in London parishes where the bishop has not been seen for these dozen years. The consequence has been that the bishops' recommendation to hold missions was accepted by most incum-



bents as a sanction for manifesting their own inclinations and tendencies. Broad-Church clergymen have had special services at which the usefulness of reading, writing, and arithmetic has been vindicated; Low-Church rectors have sought out the most stirring preachers, and have followed up their services by "after meetings," conducted according to the most approved revival methods, with much singing and extempore prayer; while the Ritualistic clergy have multiplied opportunities of communion and confession.

It does not appear that the mission has developed any novel features, as did that which was held five years ago, and most of the correspondents of the journals complain of the unmistakable flatness of the services. Considering that in many cases the clergy adopted the mission from no sense of their own fitness to conduct it, but out of deference to the bishops, this is not to be wondered at. Had the mission originated in the voluntary association of those who felt especially called to undertake it, instead of being taken up on the word of command, it would have stood before the public unprejudiced by much of the formalism and coldness which now discredit it. We should then have heard of fewer services, but we should not have read of some that scarcely attracted a handful of people, and of others that were of "the most depressing character." The Broad-Church clergyman who has "done" the mission for the *Daily News*, says that it has left a very commonplace impression on his mind—"The clergy of the Church of England have, no doubt, gone manfully in for the mission; but, save in one or two isolated cases, the result seems to have been scarcely more than a lot of Sundays rolled into one. The sermons were scarcely above the average, and fell more or less flat on the congregations." Canon Ryle, in a letter to the *Record*, had expressed his anxiety as to the character of the preaching to be expected; but we hope that this Broad-Church clerical reporter in his weariness has overstated the case. We ought to make allowance in this, as in many other cases, for what Mr. Gladstone, in one of his earliest writings, described as the dead weight which the Church of England is under the necessity of carrying. When we have done that, we shall find that there were no small number of ministers not merely of one school or party, by whom the mission was taken up in faith, as an opportunity vouchsafed of God. Every clergyman has of course worked according to his own views, and the peculiar traits of all parties have been brought into increased prominence; but the least admirable systems have men better than themselves, and the Ritualists themselves have shown here and there a deep sense of the necessity of personal religion, which could not have been anticipated from their persistent proclamation of a corporate salvation. Close contact with the needs and sorrows of men cannot but awaken in the more noble minds among the clergy a feeling in which the pretensions of a class are forgotten in the sympathies of humanity.

If the mission has done nothing else, it must have brought home to many who much needed the lesson the truth that something more than belonging to a particular church, and paying the tribute of occasional attendance on its ordinances, is needed to satisfy the requirements of true religion. In some parishes the inhabitants are said to have been actually brought to see that religion is of more consequence than the artificial distinctions of society. At Berkeley Chapel, Mayfair, it is said, a colonel of the Guards was seen sitting beside a footman, and in the neighbouring streets ladies have undertaken to answer the door, so as to let the domestics go to church. More strange still, the dinner-hour has in some cases been put off, so that the order of a family might conform to that of the mission services. In one parish a brigade of young peers was formed to go to the public-houses and whip up worshippers. Amidst all this irregular activity, there may have been spasmodic and transient elements, but it is difficult to believe that it was not mixed up with much good. At any rate, if people wish to do odd things it is better to do them on the side of religion and virtue than on that which is too commonly chosen. One incident of the mission in parishes where the incumbents are not Ritualistic was a marked recognition of the importance of lay agency. Ministers, without abating anything of their exclusive claims, have felt the absolute necessity of carrying the more devout of their people with them in the work of saving souls. Another fact which may have its importance hereafter is the part which the freer Christian agencies play in mission work, as compared with the legally authorised public worship. Prayer-meetings have been relied on in this mission as they never were before. The best strength has been thrown into and the best work done in

them. Brief addresses, pointed prayers, and lively hymns, have been found the means of awaking and sustaining an interest such as prescribed petitions could never excite. The consequence has been an increase of spiritual fervour which it may be hoped will survive the occasion, and the memory of which will at any rate remain to kindle new desire.

We can hardly take leave of these services without referring to their bearing on the future of the Church of England as an Establishment. We shall only do so, however, to repeat the conviction we have never concealed, that every manifestation of increased life, every real accession of spiritual power, will assuredly hasten the day when that Church will learn to estimate at their true value those connections which at present isolate her among the Christian bodies of this country. In those parishes in which the London Mission has been successful, it has succeeded by agencies and methods which the Church of England has in common with other churches; while that which is peculiar to her has not helped her. Sacerdotalism has done its best during the mission—but that it is always doing—and we are not aware that its representatives have any reason to feel special satisfaction with its results. In many parishes where the work has been taken up with spirit, Christians have felt how entirely they have been cast on God for success, and how little advantage they have enjoyed over their brethren beyond their own communion. This experience must be good for every denomination. As an earnest attempt to grapple with the evils of our time, with its materialistic tendencies, and its eager and all-engrossing pursuit of wealth, we cannot but rejoice in whatever degree of success has attended this mission; nor can we believe that it has been given to the ablest writers who have dedicated their observations to the public to measure the full extent of the good which those labours were calculated to produce.

#### ECCLESIASTICAL NOTES.

"*AFTER the Mission*" is the title of a very candid letter from Canon Ryle in the *Record*. It is pretty well known that the Evangelical party viewed the recent mission with suspicion and distrust, but the canon, who is one of the most active members of that party, now steps forward to say that, on the whole, he sees reasons for thankfulness for it, and that his hopes exceed his fears. He sees that harm may have been done by unsound sermons, by "Popish practices," and by spasmodic and hysterical excitement, but, on the whole, he hopes and believes that good has been done. He adds something that perhaps might have been expected from the pen of a Nonconformist, rather than from the pen of a dignitary of the Establishment. He says that "the mere fact that the Church of England has shown herself willing to attempt something out of the common way in the aggressive line, and is resolved not to die of dignity, is a striking phenomenon and a good omen for the future." Then he says:—

If any one had told me thirty years ago that I should live to see English prelates exhibiting fervent zeal for the preaching of the Gospel and the conversion of souls, and sanctioning men like Mr. Haslam and Mr. Chapman in their delivery of addresses in St. Paul's Cathedral, I should not have dared to believe him. I might even have said, like the faithless nobleman in *Samaria*, "Behold, if the Lord would make windows in heaven, might this thing be?" (2 Kings vii. 2.) But the thing has actually taken place!

These remarks reveal as much as to the actual condition of the Church, as known by its own members, as a whole Blue-book would reveal. Here is a canon who confesses himself to be astonished at a specimen of only spasmodic activity!

The new Church reform movement has also attracted Canon Ryle's notice. This is an "Evangelical Union" which has for its object reform of Convocation, of patronage, of cathedrals, of the appointment of bishops, and of sundry other things in which, however, Nonconformists have ever taken more interest than Churchmen. We do not hear that this movement is launched with any prospect of success, or that it has, at present, more than a very small support. The address which has been issued on its behalf reads like an address from people who do not expect to succeed. Who, in fact, is to work the movement? The Rev. C. H. Davies, incumbent of Cainscross, tells a home truth when he writes of it—

My belief is that the Evangelical clergy have so lost the chance of reform, when they had the power to control it, that it is now too late to do more than to gently patch up the "old house" here and here. If it be too much meddled with it will fall about our ears! The Evangelical body have now lost their influence. At the present time we have need to press on the people the need of self-reform.

Reform? What prospect is there of more reform

when we look at what is taking place amongst some parties in the Establishment? For instance, some elections to Convocation are now going on, and, amongst others, in the Archdeaconry of Durham. Of the persons nominated one is the Rev. Canon Gray, rector of Houghton-le-Spring, who, it appears, employs as a curate the Rev. C. Jupp, of Ritualistic tendencies. Belonging to the congregation of Mr. Gray and Mr. Jupp is a young lady, whose name does not appear, but who received the following letter regarding confession from the curate:—

Houghton-le-Spring, May 26, 1872.—My dear Miss —,—As usual, important letters are always delayed, and I fear my reply to yours of last week's date will not reach London till after you have left. I will, therefore, only say that I was very glad indeed to hear from you, and particularly on the subject you mentioned. I shall be quite ready and willing (in virtue of my office) to see you as you desire. Mrs. — has left, and we have the house to ourselves. Parishioners are so constantly coming on business of one kind or another, that your visits would not be noticed. Please not to hint anything to Mrs. Jupp, as I think all parochial affairs, of whatever kind, ought to be known to the priest only, and his lips sealed to every inquirer. We should be so glad to see you back after your long absence.—In great haste, yours faithfully in Christ, CHARLES JUPP.

This extraordinary and injudicious letter was read by the Rev. G. T. Fox, of Durham, at the Convocation electoral meeting held at Durham last Thursday, and on the same occasion Mr. Fox read the following letter from the mother of this young lady:—

Dear Mr. —,—I wish that any words of mine could caution parents and children against the untruthfulness and dishonesty this fearful confessional leads to. If my experience could be published it would startle many out of their apathy, I feel sure; but unfortunately the comfort of my home, and the welfare of my other children, compel me to silence. So far as I can see this state of things must continue. We are helpless. Mr. Jupp is retained in his office here, and so goes on educating our young, with all his subtle powers, towards the Church of Rome.—Believe me, dear Mr. —, yours sincerely,

The reading of these letters provoked a stormy scene, but notwithstanding, Canon Gray, who employs Mr. Jupp, and therefore sanctions his proceedings, stands a fair chance of being elected as proctor to Convocation. Yet which of the proposed movements for reform would touch such a case?

We have another case which is certainly not calculated to add to the reputation of the parties concerned in it. The Sheffield papers have given great prominence to certain proceedings that have taken place at the Burngreave Cemetery, near that town. It appears that the burial board, with the approval of the Home Office, have reduced the fees payable to the clergy for performing the burial service—the ground of reduction being that they were not warranted by custom, and that they were excessive. In consequence of this the clergy have, in several instances, refused to read the burial service, and scenes of an extraordinary and painful character have taken place. In defiance of the clergy, as a protest against their conduct, and as a comfort to the mourners, Mr. John Wilson, a member of the burial board, has, in the absence of the clergymen, read the burial service in cases where the demand for the former high fees has been refused. A few days ago this difficulty culminated in a most indecorous scene at the cemetery, where a crowd of 2,000 persons had attended in expectation of some such conflict as that which actually took place. Where the fees had not been paid—in three instances—Mr. Wilson acted as the agent of the friends, and the burial services were read under protest. But on Monday of last week, a "Trafalgar hero," named Gilberthorpe, was to have been buried, and it was known that the fees had not been paid. Mr. Wilson accordingly made his appearance, but was confronted by two clergymen, who informed him that the fees had been paid by a lady, and that they should proceed with the service. Other mourning groups followed with their dead, and the service was read. As soon, however, as that at the grave of Gilberthorpe had been concluded, Mr. Wilson addressed the excited multitude who were standing around, explaining the circumstances, and denouncing the demands of the clergy and their conduct, saying that the fees had been obtained "by fraud and misrepresentation." Here the clergyman—the Rev. H. Taylor—who had just officiated, exclaimed, "It's a lie! and you know you are telling a lie." In reply to another statement the same clergyman exclaimed, "It's a lie! do not tell any more." Who can wonder that an indignation meeting should have followed? And it is the clergy who give as a reason for opposing the Burial Bill, that indecorous scenes might take place in the graveyards!

The discussion of the claims of the Church is extending to the school boards. One is going on in



the London Board, concerning which, we may have more to say on another occasion. Canon Gregory, however, having advanced extraordinary claims for the Church, Mr. George Potter thought fit, last Thursday, to make a counter-statement, in which he enlarged upon the amount of money which the Church had received for educational and other purposes during the last thirty or more years, and on the opposition which the clergy had first shown to the educational movement, concluding with an impressive quotation from Dickens's "Haunted Man." It is stated that Mr. Potter's speech caused great uneasiness amongst certain persons present, but it is also stated that it was received with "loud cheers." Well, we are not responsible for making school boards the scenes of such discussions, but—we have no desire to avoid them.

A clergyman, the Rev. W. J. Löwenberg, one of the Curates of Keighley parish church, recently preached at St. Peter's Mission Church, Halifax, and, it would seem, attacked the Establishment. Of course there was indignation, but Mr. Löwenberg has vindicated himself. We quote a portion of his vindication:—

When on Sunday night, I spoke of the general Tendency of modern Legislation being against any Recognition of Religion by the State, I alluded to historical Facts, viz., the Separation of Church and State in Ireland, in our Colonies, in Italy, Austria, Spain, and other Countries, all which Events have taken place within the last twenty Years. The Tendency and the Facts may be deplored, but it is folly to deny them. What I said afterwards clearly shows my Meaning, "It is of no use talking about the Advantages of Church and State. You must put your Shoulder to the Wheel, and make it a Matter beyond Dispute that the Church of England really deserves that temporal Position which she now holds, if you wish her to keep it." It is true that I spoke of a past Age of Sloth and Carelessness, but I referred to a Time long past, when the Lives of the Clergy were a public Scandal, and when Wesley and his Followers were persecuted and driven out of the Church. For it was in the last Century that we "lost the Prestige and Influence which we inherited from our Ancestors," and it is an utter Perversion of my Argument to say that I reviled the Labours of a worthy Man. And upon calm Reflection I think few will find Fault with the Words that followed, "Now it has come to pass, that if we would eat our Bread we must eat it in the Sweat of our Brow. For if Dissent, in Proportion to its Wealth, is allowed to give ten Pounds for every Sovereign subscribed in Church; if for one Man who works in Church, ten toil in the Chapel; if the Nonconformist hastens Home from his Business, and spends some of his leisure Time in working for his Religion, whilst the Churchman prefers to enjoy himself, and leaves the Masses to be visited and cared for by those who hate the very Name of the Church, it needs no Prophet's Voice to foretell the inevitable Issue."

### THE LIBERATION SOCIETY.

#### SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL.

This being the year when the Liberation Society's Triennial Conference is held, a special meeting of the Council is being held to-day at the Cannon-street Hotel to determine the mode in which the conference shall be convened. The Council will be sitting at the time our present number issues from the press, and our report of its proceedings must therefore be deferred. As, however, it was intended to afford to the Council some information as to the results of the recent general election and their bearing on the society's objects, and that subject will just now be regarded as specially interesting and important, we give the statement presented to the Council by Mr. CARVELL WILLIAMS, the society's secretary:—

"At the close of last year the information which reached the executive committee led them to think that the general election, which it was generally believed would take place in 1874, would probably occur during, instead of at the close of, the Parliamentary session.

They thereupon resolved that, in lieu of preparing for the reintroduction of the Burials Bill and for the renewal of a motion for disestablishment, it would be wise to throw all the society's energies into preparation for the election.

Accordingly in the middle of January they issued a circular to their leading friends throughout the country, urging the necessity for immediate organisation for electoral purposes—giving practical information respecting certain ecclesiastical questions, and offering some suggestions as to the policy by which their friends should be guided in the several constituencies.

Wide publicity was given to the contents of this circular, the character of which, it is believed, commended itself to the society's friends, while it was commented upon in no unfavourable terms by the society's opponents.

Within a few days after these steps had been taken, it was suddenly announced that on Jan. 26 the Parliament would be dissolved, and the election of a new one immediately take place.

The committee were unable, under such circumstances, to carry into execution all their contemplated plans; but such measures as were practicable were taken without a moment's delay.

They adopted, and published, resolutions ex-

pressing dissatisfaction with the address of the Prime Minister, and calling on the society's friends to adopt at the approaching election such a course of action as would best advance their principles. A further circular, setting forth the views of the committee more fully, was also issued and published. An electoral committee sat daily, and there was a large amount of correspondence between the society and its friends in regard to particular candidates, or the circumstances of particular constituencies. The votes of members of the late Parliament on ecclesiastical questions were also widely circulated, and were, it is believed, of great service in enabling electors to obtain satisfactory pledges, or explanations, from their late representatives.

It cannot, however, be concealed that the suddenness with which the election came upon the society's friends, in common with all other parties, placed them at great disadvantage, and more especially in regard to the finding of candidates, to replace either retiring members, or those whose votes had given dissatisfaction. Hence in several cases the actual result of the election represents the exigencies of the moment, rather than the actual feeling of the majority of the constituency.

The broad results of the election are these—that, whereas there were in the late Parliament 360 Liberal and 292 Conservative members, the position of the two parties has now been reversed, and the estimated number of Conservatives is 351, and of Liberals 302; being a Conservative majority of 49, instead of a Liberal majority of 68. And, as a further result, the Liberal Government has resigned, and a Conservative Government has come into office.

These general party results can be stated with greater exactness than those which specially affect the friends of religious equality.

The two questions to which they gave prominence were—the amendment of the Education Act, and especially the repeal of the 25th Clause, and the disestablishment of the English and Scotch Churches. In regard to the first, the most appreciable result has been the virtual abandonment of the 25th Clause by several prominent members of the late Administration, as well as by a considerable number of their supporters, who previously hesitated to pronounce against the clause.

As regards disestablishment, the action of the society's friends has been—as it was intended to be—less rigorous than in regard to education. They were urged to secure the re-election of those who had supported Mr. Miall's motion, or the return of successors who would give similar votes; and, wherever their strength warranted such a step, they were further advised to require that new candidates, or one of them, should support the policy of disestablishment. In other cases, it was suggested that candidates who could not be returned without the support of the advocates of disestablishment should refrain from opposing a disestablishment policy.

The reasonableness, and the moderation, of this advice has been generally recognised, and, so far as information has been received, there is reason to believe that the advice was acted upon by those to whom it was given—at least to as great an extent as was practicable under the extremely unfavourable circumstances in which they were placed by the shortness of the time at their disposal.

The appeal made to the country by the late Prime Minister was of a character to divert attention from ecclesiastical questions, but nevertheless the subject of disestablishment—so far as the English and Scottish Churches are concerned—figured more prominently in the addresses and speeches of candidates, and in the questions of electors, than at any former election. This was especially the case with Conservative candidates; Liberal candidates showing an indisposition to commit themselves to very definite views respecting it.

The number of constituencies for which supporters of disestablishment stood as candidates was about 125, and the number of such candidates—so far as is known—was 149. Of these ninety-seven sat in the last Parliament and fifty-two were new candidates.

The number of supporters of disestablishment in the last Parliament, at the time it was dissolved, was about a hundred. In the new Parliament there are sixty-four of those who voted for one or other of Mr. Miall's motions in 1871 and 1873. The facts are not certainly known in regard to all the newly-elected Irish members; but omitting these, it is believed, as the result of careful inquiry, that nineteen new members favourable to disestablishment have been elected. The old and the new together make eighty-three; but, in addition, there are certain members of the late Government who are known, or are believed, to hold views in harmony with our own.

It may therefore be assumed that there are between eighty and ninety members of the new House of Commons in favour of a policy which, in the estimation of those who are unacquainted with the facts, has been discredited, if not disastrously damaged, as the result of the recent appeal to the constituencies. At a general election at which the Liberal party as such has suffered almost unprecedented loss, the most advanced ecclesiastical section of that party has lost not more than from twelve to fifteen votes.

Nor is that the only significant fact to be reported; for, in addition to the members already supporters of disestablishment, there has been an increase in the number of Liberal members who,

looking upon the question as a question of the future, have distinctly intimated that when it has advanced nearer to a settlement, they too will be found on the same side.

While, therefore, the general election of 1874 has deprived the friends of religious equality of some Parliamentary supporters whose services they will greatly miss during the time of their absence from the House of Commons, and while disappointment cannot but be felt at the failure of others whose election would have been of the greatest service, our cause has suffered no appreciable damage. We shall not be without leaders in Parliament when action is deemed prudent, and the leaders will be supported by a compact and earnest body of followers. The conditions of our work will be changed, but the work will go on, not with languor and dispiritedness, but with growing energy and hope.

We understand that the resolutions to be submitted to the Council express satisfaction at the firmness displayed by the friends of religious equality at the recent election, and the number of disestablishment candidates returned. At the same time, they recognise the wisdom of refraining at the present time from aggressive action in Parliament, and of redoubled exertions to prepare the country for the return of a Parliament willing to support disestablishment. The Executive Committee are instructed to prepare plans for this purpose, and the society's supporters generally are called upon to supply the increased funds, and to give that zealous aid which will be demanded.

### THE NEW PARLIAMENT AND RELIGIOUS EQUALITY.

In the *Times* of Saturday appeared a letter signed "W.," to the following effect:—

In these days, when it is constantly asserted that the disestablishment and disendowment of the English Church are inevitable, it may perhaps be interesting, and it is certainly consolatory, to desponding Churchmen, to examine the fate of the sixty-one members who voted in support of Mr. Miall's motion in May last. It will be found that twenty-eight of the number, including the mover himself, have not been returned to the new Parliament. Surely this is significant of the opinion of the country upon this question.

"W." is wisely reticent of details which would show how poor a case he really has, but we think we can enlighten him a little. It will be seen that if the supporters of disestablishment in the late Parliament were to be reckoned at only 61 (they were in reality nearer 100) the Liberation Society has very greatly increased its strength. But, as we stated in our last number, the cause of disestablishment, though it has lost some of its leading champions, has not suffered much numerically.

The following (7) members, who supported one or other of Mr. Miall's disestablishment motions, had died or retired before the last Parliament was dissolved,—

Armitagehead, G. . .	Dundee.
Carnegie, Hon. C. . .	Forfarshire.
Clay, J. . .	Hull.
Cowen, Sir J. . .	Newcastle-on-Tyne.
Lock, G. . .	Wick Boroughs.
Platt, J. . .	Oldham.
Price, W. P. . .	Gloucester.

The following (17) did not offer themselves at the recent election,—

Barry, A. H. S. . .	Cork Co.
Beaumont, S. A. . .	Wakefield.
Bentall, E. H. . .	Maldon.
Candlish, J. . .	Sunderland.
Dalglish, J. . .	Glasgow.
Ewing, H. E. C. . .	Paisley.
Graham, W. . .	Glasgow.
Hadfield, G. . .	Sheffield.
Harris, J. D. . .	Leicester.
Herbert, Hon. A. . .	Nottingham.
Howard, Jas. . .	Bedford.
Illingworth, A. . .	Knarborough.
Miall, E. . .	Bradford.
Potter, E. . .	Carlisle.
Smith, J. M. . .	Stockport.
Stepney, Sir J. . .	Carmarthen Borough.
Williams, E. B. . .	W. Cornwall.

The following have been rejected (24):—

Bagnall, J. . .	Clonmel.
Baines, E. . .	Leeds.
Brewer, Dr. . .	Colchester.
Bright, Jacob . .	Manchester.
Buckley, N. . .	Stalybridge.
Crauford, E. H. J. .	Ayr.
Delahunty, J. . .	Waterford.
Fawcett, W. . .	Brighton.
Heron, D. C. . .	Tipperary.
Lawrence, W. . .	London.
Lewis, J. D. . .	Devonport.
McClure, T. . .	Belfast.
Miller, J. . .	Edinburgh.
Morrison, W. . .	Plymouth.
Onslow, G. . .	Guildford.
Parry, J. . .	Carmarthen Borough.
Palmer, J. W. . .	Lincoln.
Roden, G. S. . .	Stoke.
Richards, E. M. . .	Cardigan.
Rylands, P. . .	Warrington.
Saunderson . .	Cavan.
Sartoris, E. J. . .	Carmarthenshire.
White, J. . .	Brighton.
Wingfield, Sir C. .	Gravesend.



The following (64) have been re-elected:—

Allen, W. S.	Newcastle-under-Lyme.
Anderson, G.	Glasgow.
Balfour, Sir G.	Kincardine.
Barclay, J. W.	Forfar.
Beaumont, Capt.	South Durham.
Bright, John	Birmingham.
Brogden, A.	Wednesbury.
Brown, A. W.	Wenlock.
Callan, P.	Dundalk.
Clifford, C. E.	Newport.
Campbell-Bannerman, H.	Stirling.
Carter, R. M.	Leeds.
Colman, J. P.	Norwich.
Davies, R.	Anglesea.
Duke, Sir C.	Chelsea.
Dillwyn, L. S.	Swansea.
Digby, K. T.	Queen's County.
Dixon, G.	Birmingham.
Fitzmaurice, Lord E.	Calne.
Fordyce, W. D.	Aberdeen.
Fothergill, R.	Merthyr.
Gilpin, C.	Northampton.
Goldsmid, Sir F.	Reading.
Grey, Sir J.	Kilkenny.
Gourley, E. T.	Sunderland.
Holland, S.	Merioneth.
Kinnaird, A.	Perth.
Lawson, Sir W.	Carlisle.
Lawrence, Sir J.	Lambeth.
Leatham, Ed.	Huddersfield.
Leeman, G.	York.
Leith, Mr.	Aberdeen.
Lush, Dr.	Salisbury.
Leak, Alderman	Finbury.
McArthur, W.	Lambeth.
McLaren, D.	Edinburgh.
Melly, G.	Roke.
Morgan, G. O.	Denbigh.
Morley, S.	Bristol.
Mondella, A. J.	Sheffield.
Munro, P.	Birmingham.
Phillips, R. N.	Bury.
Plimsoll, S.	Derby.
Pease, J. W.	South Durham.
Potter, T. E. B.	Rochdale.
Price, W. E.	Tewkesbury.
Rathbone, W.	Liverpool.
Reed, C.	Hackney.
Richard, H.	Merthyr.
Sealey, C.	Lincoln.
Shaw, R.	Burnley.
Shaw, W.	Cork Co.
Sheridan, H.	Dudley.
Smith, J. E.	Tynemouth.
Smith, P. J.	Westmeath.
Stapole, Capt.	Ennis.
Stevenson, R.	Shields.
Taylor, P. A.	Leicester.
Trevelyan, G. O.	Hawick.
Vivian, H. H.	Glamorgan.
Whalley, G. H.	Peterborough.
Williams, W.	Denbigh.
Villiers, C.	Wolverhampton.
Young, A. W.	Helston.

The following new members of the new Parliament will, we believe, be found to vote, if occasion requires, in favour of religious equality:—

Burt, T.	Morpeth.
Crossley, J.	Halifax.
Davis, D.	Cardigan Boroughs.
Gowen, J.	Newcastle.
Cameron, D.	Glasgow.
Eyton, P. E.	Flint.
Hill, T. R.	Worcester.
Hopwood, C.	Stockport.
Jenkins, E.	Dundee.
Lloyd, M.	Anglesea Boroughs.
McArthur, A.	Leicester.
Macdonald, A.	Stafford.
Macgregor, A.	Leith.
Pennington, J.	Stockport.

There are some other newly-elected Liberals who might perhaps be disposed to vote in the same direction, though we hesitate to include them in the above list. Among them are Mr. C. M. Bell (North Durham), Mr. Dixon (Dunbar), Mr. T. Earp (Newark), Mr. W. J. Ingram (Boston), Mr. Reid (Kirkcaldy). Amongst the members of the late Government whose sympathies are of the same kind, and who would be inclined to vote for measures of religious equality now that they are free, are Mr. Adam, Mr. W. E. Baxter, Mr. W. G. Duff, and Mr. Stansfeld.

It is probable therefore that the new Parliament will contain nearly ninety members favourable to religious equality, which would be a reduction of about ten per cent. on the numbers in the old House of Commons.

#### NONCONFORMISTS AND THE GENERAL ELECTION.

The following letter appeared in the *Times* of Monday:—

"Sir,—Adopting Burke's metaphor in reference to the general election, you lately asked what had become of the political grasshoppers, and expressed some surprise that their chirpings should be so entirely drowned in the storm which has been raging around us. May I be allowed to suggest that your inference, so far as it concerns Nonconformists, was a little too sweeping?

"It is only fair to remember that in the late elections, with one or two well-known exceptions, the Dissenters, acting upon advice which you emphatically applauded some time ago, did not make disturbance a test question, on the express ground that public opinion was not sufficiently matured on the subject. For the most part, I believe, they

acted with their party; and they were the more disposed to do so, seeing that their leaders, including Mr. Gladstone himself, promised, though somewhat late in the day, such an alteration in the 25th Clause of the Education Act as would give them satisfaction. As time went on, all subsidiary questions were swallowed up in one of confidence in the Government, and there was no urgent reason why the 'chirpings' of Nonconformists should be heard.

"Dissenters, as one of the wings of the Liberal party, have naturally suffered in the general overthrow. Could they have prevented it? Perhaps not, even had they been as energetic and enthusiastic as in 1868, which they were not. Still, it is to be borne in mind that the Liberals have even now a clear majority in the borough constituencies, where the Nonconformist strength chiefly lies. I think, also, it will be found that the supporters of the Free Church principle are not much diminished in the new House of Commons, and that their specific losses have not been at all in proportion to the losses of the Liberal party as a whole. Your correspondent 'W.' must be living in 'a fool's paradise' if he supposes that the adherents of religious equality in Mr. Disraeli's Parliament would not muster more than sixty members.

"As you justly remark, the prospect of the Liberals winning back the constituencies which have pronounced against them cannot be very remote. Their gains will be more or less the gains of their Dissenting allies, who, if they should, as is probable, refrain from appealing to the House of Commons as it now is, are not likely to remain either despondent or idle. Mr. Gladstone has told them that before Parliament will seriously listen to them they must convert the people of England. That is their task, and to that task they can quietly apply themselves with redoubled energy now that the door of the Legislature is closed against them, and that they have no friends in power to embarrass. Politicians would, I think, grievously err if they assumed we were in a state of 'collapse.' Nonconformists, though often beaten, and sometimes routed, in contending for their equitable rights, have never in the end been crushed in the conflict. The principle of self-support in religion is too just and reasonable to be extinguished in party conflicts, and the question is, not whether it shall eventually prevail—for we know that time is on our side—but when it will become the creed of practical statesmen and win acceptance in the Imperial Legislature, and how it shall be carried out. And there may be two opinions whether the advent of a Conservative Government will retard that, as I think, inevitable result.

"In asking you to insert these remarks, perhaps I am showing somewhat of that 'importance' in 'besieging the press' which you deprecated a few days ago. But now, as before, you may not be unwilling to afford so much of your valuable space as will remove misconceptions relative to the present political position and future hopes of the great religious bodies outside the Established Church.

"I am, Sir, yours, &c.,

"A NONCONFORMIST."

#### NONCONFORMISTS AND THE ENDOWED SCHOOLS COMMISSION.

The following letter, written by Mr. Elias Thomas of Manningham, appeared last week in the *Bradford Observer*:—"Sir,—Will you allow me to call the attention of your readers to the reply which Lord F. Cavendish gave to a question which was put to him in Pullan's Music Hall last Friday evening? I am the more anxious to do this because it appears to me that the subject has not received that amount of attention which I think its importance demands. The question had reference to some of the provisions of the Endowed Schools Acts of 1869 and 1874. His lordship said, 'That he did not believe there was any provision in the Acts regarding in the smallest degree the religious profession of the commissioners.' From this statement it would be natural to suppose that the commissioners appointed under these Acts belonged to different religious sects or denominations. But what is the fact? Why, that both commissioners and assistant-commissioners are all Churchmen. There is not a single Nonconformist of any kind amongst them. Nor is this mere accident; for when the commission was first constituted two prominent members of the House of Commons waited upon the Vice-President of the Council, and urged that at least one of the commissioners ought to be a Nonconformist, and afterwards, when by the promotion of one of its members a vacancy occurred, a memorial, signed by forty members of Parliament, was presented to Mr. Gladstone, praying that some competent Nonconformist might be appointed to succeed him. 'The most favourable consideration' was of course promised, and the practical answer was the appointment of another Churchman; so that whether these Acts expressly provide for what Mr. Mathew Wilson very properly described 'an abominable state of affairs' or not, they clearly allow it, and the moving spirits of the Education Department have not been slow to take advantage of the permission, and to work these Acts in a narrow sectarian spirit rather than in a broad national one.

"With regard to the appointment of clerical *ex-officio* governors, his lordship said that 'many of these schools were in places where the clergyman was the only person of any standing or fitness for the position.' This appears to me to imply that it was only in such isolated cases that clerical *ex-officio*

trustees were appointed; but is it so? What are the facts? Why, that in the first forty schemes that were laid before Parliament there were thirty-six clerical *ex-officio* governors appointed, and amongst the places thus distinguished are Wolverhampton, Newcastle, Bradford, Keighley, and Skipton. The intelligent and educated laymen and Nonconformist ministers who reside in the three last-named places will no doubt be gratified to know that, though his lordship does not regard them as having any 'standing or fitness' for the position of *ex-officio* governors of an endowed grammar school, still some of them have sufficient standing and fitness to record their votes in his favour at the election which is now going on. Happily for the interests of true Liberalism the Central Nonconformist Committee took exception to this one-sided action of the commissioners; they protested against it, and declared that it was not in accordance with the spirit and intention of the Act of 1869. These protests and declarations were for a time unheeded, and the objectionable appointments continued to be made till it was seen that the committee were determined to bring the question to an issue. Then, and not till then, the question was submitted to the law officers of the Crown, and they declared all such appointments to be illegal. But the Liberal Government was not to be thus thwarted by the Nonconformists, and in order to prevent it, during the last few days of the last session of Parliament, Mr. Forster brought in and carried an Endowed Schools Act Amendment Bill, which, amongst other objectionable features, provides for and makes it legal for clergymen of the Established Church to be appointed *ex-officio* governors.

"With regard to the co-optative governors, his lordship said 'he supposed that some particular case was referred to in which nine Churchmen and one Dissenter had been appointed.' That the supposition of his lordship was wrong the following statement will show. I must confess that I find it very difficult to give his lordship credit for the amount of ignorance which he chose to assume upon this subject, seeing that the following facts were stated before a select committee of the House of Commons in May last, and upon the report of that committee the Amendment Act of last session was professedly founded. The Nonconformist committee had their suspicions first excited by the number of clerical *ex-officio* governors that were appointed, and the more they saw of the different schemes as they were placed upon the table of the House, the more their suspicions were increased. This led them to determine to obtain returns of the political and religious professions of every co-optative governor named in the schemes of the commissioners. Inquiries concerning 100 of these schemes were at once sent out, and returns were received from 85 of them. In these 85 schemes there are 441 co-optative governors (that is, governors nominated by the commissioners). Politically 128 of them are Liberals and 313 Tories; religiously 385 are Churchmen, 43 Nonconformists, and 13 not positively known. In over 50 of these schemes there was not a single Nonconformist nominated, and amongst them are schools situate at Wolverhampton, Wigan, Stafford, Walsall, and Stourbridge. Included in the 385 Churchmen there are 81 clergymen, in addition to the clerical *ex-officio*, and included in the 43 Nonconformists there are five ministers. From these facts—facts which, I believe, have never been questioned—your readers will see that his lordship was altogether wrong in supposing that some particular case was referred to when it was stated that the Endowed Schools Act allows co-optative governors to be appointed in the proportion of nine Churchmen to one Dissenter, and thus by the action of a Liberal Government the just claims of one-half of the loyal citizens of the nation are set aside, their right to anything like an adequate voice in the government of important national institutions is ignored, and the sectarian and official elements are very largely restored to their former position, a position from which the Act of 1869 was professedly framed to deliver them, and yet these same citizens are expected soon to make great sacrifices to keep this same Government in power and to clothe themselves in sackcloth and ashes because they are not likely to succeed. Lord F. Cavendish admitted that 'the commissioners might have made mistakes in the past' and expressed the hope that 'they would not do the same again,' to which I reply that had these objectionable features borne the marks of simple mistakes, I could have joined his lordship in the expression of that hope, but when I see that these mistakes are all of the same kind, all tending to favour one sect at the expense of all the rest, I think such conduct ought to be called by another name. His lordship further said:—'He was not sanguine that they would be able to obtain a better Endowed Schools Act, knowing with what difficulty the first and second Acts had passed the House of Lords.' In reply, I can only say that when the Liberal leaders in the House of Commons are content to legislate with a view to please the House of Lords, it is time that they retired either from Parliament or at least to the shady side of the House; and it is because I believe that the whole educational policy of the present Government has been framed with a view to please the Tories, that I cannot pretend to any great amount of concern at what has taken place in the country during the last ten days. My opinion is that when Tory measures are carried a Tory Government ought to be in office.—I am, &c.,

"E. THOMAS.

"Manningham, Feb. 10, 1874."



## THE POPE AND HIS CARDINALS.

(From the Roman Correspondent of the Times.)

The Pope, who a few weeks ago showed so great an anxiety to administer the Sacraments to his secretary of state, is now pressing upon him the expediency of making his will. Thoroughly reassured on the score of his own health, and confident of the almost boundless length of years that is yet in store for himself, the Holy Father seems to look with serene resignation on the fate of his *entourage*. Cardinal Capatty, the great champion of infallibility in the Ecumenical Council, has been for weeks dying by inches. He has succumbed to chronic infirmity or mental alienation, which has made mere wrecks of many senior members of the Sacred College. The staunchest friends and servants of Pius IX. are falling from him one by one, overpowered by disease or decrepitude. He alone walks erect and undaunted, ever young, ever sanguine, outstripping his youngest chaplains in his afternoon saunters in the Vatican gardens, astonishing even more than enlivening his gravest counsellors by the dryness of his humour and the keenness of his sarcasm. Certainly no such heavy burden of faith ever sat so lightly on the heart of any man. Blow the wind from whatever quarter it lists, let the waves rise ever so high, the Pope is sure that all will be well in the end. He considers himself as placed under the protection of a special Providence, which will not only befriend his cause, but also either so hasten its triumph or prolong his life as to enable him in the flesh to see it. The good old Pontiff is not much of a theologian, and even less of a politician. Nothing can be more vague and unsettled than the views he takes of things in general, and of his own position in particular. Sitting as he does in the midst of conflicting opinions, not only is he himself no partisan, but he is even unconscious of the existence of parties in his council. He has been governed throughout his career by an inordinate, almost puerile, vanity. It is only by flattering his passing humour that a temporary ascendancy over his mind can be obtained. Neither the politicians nor the bigots can boast of a permanent control over his actions. Antonelli has never been thoroughly trusted, and never definitely discarded. The Jesuits have bewildered, but not persuaded, the Holy Father. His self-conceit is equally proof against authoritative argument and subtle seduction. He is a tool in the hand of every man who approaches him, but a tool with a loose handle, apt to turn against the use the workman would put it to. Himself of an easy, indolent disposition, he is inclined to let things take their own course, and has little sympathy with the zeal or fuss of the people about him. There is something fatalistic in his desire to let Heaven accomplish its purposes in its own way and in its own good time. All his reliance is in blind obstinacy. The Church, he is convinced, is built on a rock, and faith can move mountains. "Non possumus" will do it all. Everything is sure to yield to him in the end if he only sets himself against all concession. As the Pope never was a fast friend, so neither is he a violent hater. He is at war with the powers by which Italy is ruled, but has never divested himself of his sneaking kindness for his country, and does not share the vindictive feeling which animates some of his advisers against the spoilers of the sanctuary. Even in his sorest need of foreign interference he was neither cordial nor grateful to the French and Austrians whose bayonets propped up his throne, and in his policy he was as little swayed by partiality to the Bourbons as to the Bonapartes. A Pope's business, in his opinion, is to be a Papist, not an Imperialist or Legitimist; and, as Papal supremacy is not easily enforced upon any potentate, he would fain base it on popular allegiance, and places greater reliance on the spontaneous Romanist tendencies which are manifesting themselves in free England and America than in any attempt made by the Government of France or Austria to carry out the Concordats and establish religion by order. He puts no faith in princes, and scorns the use of human means. As he is apt to quarrel with his supporters, so he is prone to disagree with his advisers. It is not without some hidden design of Providence, he thinks, that his Ministers are removed or disabled; that the overbearing Jesuits are dispersed, the too crafty Antonelli crippled by gout, and even the tyrannical Tarquini laid down with mortal illness. It is evident in the Pope's conceit that he alone is entrusted with the fulfilment of his mission. He alone is infallible; alone unbroken, almost immortal. The designs of Heaven are not to be compassed by human means. The Church must rely for existence on those supernatural agencies on which it was originally established.

Men and events have equally contributed to induce Pius IX. to look upon himself as a miraculous man. A picture in Sant' Agnese fuori le Mura represents him as upheld by angels during the catastrophe by which the floor sank under him and his suite at the time of his visit to that sanctuary in 1847. His portrait in mosaic is placed above the bronze statue of the Prince of the Apostles in the great nave of St. Peter's in commemoration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of his accession—a miraculous consummation which enabled him to "see the years of Peter," and obviously singled him out for some great recondit purpose in God's governance of the world. The wall by which the transept of the Vatican Basilica was cut off from the main body of the church to be used as a council chamber in 1869 is suffered to remain, to the grievous disfigurement of the edifice, lest the world should suppose

that the Synod was more than adjourned by the occupation of Rome, or by the confinement of the Pontiff to his palace. So long as the Pope considers himself safe from any possibility of a mistake he thinks he need harbour no fear of a mischance. His omnipotence is founded on his infallibility. He is invincible in his self-reliance, and his faith, far from abating, only draws fresh strength from the havoc that death, disease, or any other calamity makes among the persons who presume to support or guide him. It need not be observed that such is not the opinion entertained about him by the world at large, and especially by the majority of his countrymen, whether opposed or even friendly to him. In the estimation of the Italian multitude Pius IX. is a *Jettatore*, who brings misfortune upon any person or thing on which his "evil eye" rests, who breaks whatever he touches. His own temporal power, the throne of the Neapolitan Bourbons, that of Isabella of Spain, the career of Maximilian of Austria, the fortunes of the house itself of the Hapsburgs, have all to bewail the consequences of the ill-fortune which attends whatever obtains the Pope's blessing. The Papal excommunication has been, for Victor Emmanuel, for Bismarck, for all the foes to the Papal power, a pledge of success. The Pope sees it: he might, perhaps, be brought to acknowledge it. But he lives still; he is full of health and hope, and nothing can shake his confidence that the tide will turn—that his days will be spared till he sees the confusion of his adversaries in the fulness of time. Possibly the death of Tarquini, like the expulsion of the Jesuits and the illness of Antonelli, like the decline of the power of France, will, in his opinion, only have the result of removing from him those domestic and foreign influences, against which in his heart he rebelled all the time that he lacked the strength to resist them. The more men leave him to himself, the more, he may trust, will God be with him.

## THE GERMAN EMPEROR ON ULTRAMONTANISM.

The following letter has been received by Earl Russell from the German Emperor:—

"Dear Lord Russell,—I have received your letter of January 28, with the resolutions of the great meeting in London, and with my ambassador's report of the proceedings.

"I thank you sincerely for this communication, and for the accompanying expression of your personal goodwill. It is incumbent on me to be the leader of my people in a struggle maintained through centuries past by German Emperors of earlier days, against a power the domination of which has in no country of the world been found compatible with the freedom and welfare of nations—a power which, if victorious in our days, would imperil, not in Germany alone, the blessings of the Reformation, liberty of conscience, and the authority of the law.

"I accept the battle thus imposed upon me in fulfilment of my kingly duties and in firm reliance on God, to whose help we look for victory, but also in the spirit of regard for the creed of others, and of evangelical forbearance which has been stamped by my forefathers on the laws and administration of my States.

"The latest measures of my Government do not infringe upon the Romish Church or the free exercise of their religion by her votaries; they only give to the independence of the legislation of the country some of the guarantees long possessed by other countries, and formerly possessed by Prussia, without being held by the Romish Church incompatible with the free exercise of her religion.

"I was sure, and I rejoice at the proof afforded me by your letter, that the sympathies of the people of England would not fail me in this struggle—the people of England, to whom my people and my Royal House are bound by the remembrance of many a past and honourable struggle maintained in common since the days of William of Orange.

"I beg you to communicate this letter, with my hearty thanks, to the gentlemen who signed the resolutions, and remain, yours sincerely,

(Signed)

"WILHELM.

"Berlin, February 18, 1874."

The *Hour* states that the German ambassador, and Col. Macdonald, of St. Martin's, have had an interview with Earl Russell, at which they presented to his lordship a letter from the German Emperor, in which the noble earl and the Protestants of England and Ireland are thanked for the warm sympathy they have shown with Prussia in her struggle against the Ultramontanes. Our contemporary understands that a deputation representing the Protestants of England will shortly proceed to Berlin for the purpose of thanking his Imperial Majesty for the interest he has manifested in the recent London meetings, and at the same time to express the gratification which has been felt in this country at the similar gatherings recently held in Berlin. The deputation will consist of Colonel Jocelyn, Sir Robert Peel, M.P., Sir John Murray, and Colonel Macdonald.

Legal proceedings have been definitely instituted by the Prussian Government against the Moravian Bishop of Olmutz for transgressing the new ecclesiastical laws in the Silesian parishes belonging to his diocese. The report turns out to be true that the Ultramontane party, whose silence during the debates on the Military Reorganisation Bill was noticed, have made overtures to the Government offering to support the scheme on condition that

the ecclesiastical policy of the Crown be modified in their favour. The proposal has been summarily rejected. The proceedings against the Archbishop of Breslau have entered upon a stage which makes his early imprisonment—on the same grounds as the Archbishop Ledochowski's—more than probable.

The Archbishop of Cologne has been condemned to pay a fine of 400 thalers (60*l.*) or undergo four months' imprisonment, for appointing priests in two cases without compliance with the May Statutes. For another similar offence committed recently, since the first prosecution against the archbishop was instituted, he was ordered to pay a fine of a thousand thalers (150*l.*) or undergo ten months' imprisonment.

The Superior Council of the Prussian Evangelical Church Council has called the attention of the Government to the fact that by the introduction of the civil registry of births, marriages, and deaths, the Evangelical Church will suffer a loss of more than 200,000 thalers annually. The council therefore asks the Government "to preserve our Church from such fatal consequences of a legislation of which the essential cause lies outside the circumstances of this Church."

The *Lancet* says the Archbishop of Canterbury may be said to be out of danger.

According to the *Rock*, the confessional was unblushingly advocated in St. Paul's Cathedral during the mission week by the "missioner," and was actually practised.

The English Church Union is making appeals for funds to enable it to crush all attempts of the Church Association to prosecute Romanising priests.

The *Record* states that Prebendary Wilson, the vicar of Islington, has recently been suffering from illness. He is now better, and leaves town for a few weeks.

THE OLD CATHOLICS.—The *Deutsche Merkur* reckons 12,500 Old Catholic families, which, with four members to each family, gives a total of 50,000 Old Catholics. The 12,500 families are under the care of forty-one priests, or rather thirty-one; for ten of the forty-one priests are unable, from various causes, to do duty.

MR. GLADSTONE'S LAST CHURCH APPOINTMENT.—A few weeks ago (says the *Bristol Post*) the Rev. Mr. Roberts, the curate of an agricultural parish in the West of England, was dismissed from his curacy for the supposed offence of taking a prominent part in the agricultural labourers' movement. The matter was brought under the notice of Mr. Gladstone, who has appointed the rev. gentleman to the living of Brindaley, in Nottinghamshire.

THE SALE OF SOULS.—The reversion of the patronage of St. Mary's Church, Kirkdale, Liverpool, was on Monday offered for sale by auction. There was a large attendance, the announcement of the sale having caused considerable interest. On behalf of the vendors 500*l.* was offered, and no advance was made upon this price for some time. At last, however, a local solicitor offered 510*l.*, and this being the highest bid, the reversion was "knocked down" to him for that sum.

BETTER LATE THAN NEVER.—By way of contradicting certain statements made and placards issued during the late election, the following resolution has been passed at a meeting of the Church of England Temperance Society, at the head offices in London:—"It is the duty of this society to take prompt steps for disproving the assertions that the clergy of the Church of England are in favour of any measure relaxing the present Licensing Laws, and more especially of that contemplated by the bill of the Licensed Victuallers' Association."

PREACHING IN THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND.—In a long letter published in the *Record*, the Rev. J. C. Ryle says that the practical result that he wants to see produced by the recent mission is a complete reform in the preaching of the clergy. The late mission will, he trusts, promote a thorough revival of the English pulpit, and he hopes that many will "lay aside that orthodox proneness, that respectable dulness, that leaden heaviness, that first-person-plural vagueness, that guinea-pig-like tameness, and those dreary commonplace, which the laity too often complain of as the characteristics of the modern parson's sermon."

MR. GORDON'S LIBERATION LECTURES.—Notwithstanding the upset caused by the elections, Mr. Gordon, of Darlington, in company with Mr. Evans, of Llanantffraid, the society's agent, has had some capital meetings in North Wales. On the 9th, at Rhyl, where Mr. Eytton, the new M.P. for the Flintshire Boroughs, presided, there was a large and enthusiastic audience, and, on the 12th, Mr. Gordon touched the sacred soil of Anglesea, at Menai Bridge, where Mr. Evans and himself addressed a meeting in the Independent Chapel, and encouraged the friends against the depression induced by the immediate electoral defeat in Carnarvonshire. On the 18th and 19th there were large and enthusiastic meetings at Abergelle and Llandudno, Mr. Roberts, J.P., ably presiding at the former, and Mr. C. R. Hall, the same at the latter. Between dates Mr. Gordon had addressed meetings at Openshaw and Harpurhey, near Manchester, where the right key-note was struck by hearty and sympathetic audiences. This week Mr. Gordon is in the West Riding again.

A VICAR AND HIS CHURCHWARDEN AT CROSS PURPOSES.—Plympton promises an excited Lady-day meeting, as the slight truce between the vicar and one of his churchwardens has been followed by open war. One item of the Christmas decorations consisted of a cross of flowers over the communion



table. When this was removed at Candlemas, another of some plain material was put in its place. The churchwarden removed this at 4.30 p.m. on Saturday week. At 5 p.m., the vicar replaced it, and there it remained while he preached on the Sunday following upon the use and abuse of the cross. On Saturday last down it came again, but was promptly replaced. The churchwarden, however, bided his time, and, knowing that the vicar would be at the other church on Sunday morning, he succeeded before the service commenced in again removing the emblem of pardon and peace. So far he has scored one victory, and report says that it is to be followed up by whitewashing the illuminated though somewhat dingy cross in the centre panel of the reredos, and cutting the embroidered cross off the altar cloth.—*Western Morning News*.

**THE STATE CHURCH IN SWEDEN.**—Sweden has hitherto maintained the most intolerant State Church in Europe. In order to quit it an applicant had to undergo personal examination by the minister of his parish, at the discretion of the latter, as to his motives, and to repeat his request officially a second and third time. No civil marriage existing, and no Church but the Lutheran being recognised, Dissenters' children were practically illegitimate unless the parents were united in the Lutheran Church. They were subject to frequent legal difficulties when their parents refused to have them baptised as Lutherans, this being the only legal manner of registering their births and consequently their ages. As there are nearly 10,000 Baptists in Sweden, and several thousand Methodists, the grievance has been a most serious one. The Synod of the Church has now approved the law passed by the Chambers, and which was submitted to it before receiving the royal sanction. Under this a simple declaration of a desire to leave the Lutheran Church for another Christian denomination, repeated at the end of two months, is to be held valid for any person not under the age of eighteen, and is to be registered officially by the pastor of the parish. Small as this reform appears, it is understood it will lead soon to an official recognition of the Dissenting communities. They will then receive corporate rights and religious privileges hitherto withheld.

**RITUALISM FOR THE YOUNG.**—The *Methodist Recorder* says the following hymn is taught in one of the day-schools in Ryedale, Yorkshire:—

I am a little Catholic,  
I love my church and School;  
I love my dear old English Church,  
I love her faith and rule.  
I'm not a little Protestant,  
As some would have me say;  
I'm not a little Romanist;  
So call me what you may.  
I love the blessed sacraments,  
They are what Jesus gave;  
They are the blessed means of grace,  
My soul from sin to save.  
I honour, too, God's own true priests;  
They act in Jesus' stead,  
When they baptise, absolve, and bless,  
And consecrate the bread.  
In holy water I was washed,  
And cleansed from all my sin;  
'Twas there the Holy Ghost came down,  
My soul to dwell within.  
'Twas there I got the holy sign,  
The cross upon my brow;  
God's mark upon my infant head,  
Just as I sign it now.  
But, O alas, how often since  
I've fallen into sin,  
In spite of all my Saviour's love,  
Who died my soul to win.  
How shall I get my sins forgiven?  
How cleansed from every stain?  
Baptismal purity brought back?  
My soul restored again?  
First to confession I must go,  
And tell out all my shame;  
My list of sins, all, one by one,  
In penitence must name.  
Then I shall hear the gracious words  
Which Jesus says to me;  
If with repentance true I've come,  
From all I am set free.  
And Jesus, acting through His priest,  
Absolves and makes me free;  
For He has said they are forgiven  
Whose sins thou dost forgive.

**A CURIOUS INNOVATION.**—In the new tripos which has been introduced this year at Cambridge, instead of the old theological examination, one of the papers on modern Church history was set upon Wesley, and contained the following questions:—“What was the origin and first application of the term Methodist? How far did the original bearers of the name ultimately hold together? Sketch briefly the lives of any two of them except the Wesleys. What movements independent of Methodism were on foot for the revival of religion at about the same time in this and other countries? Who were the Hutchinsonians? Carefully describe the influence of the Moravians on Wesley, and the causes of his dissension afterwards from them. What doctrines were ultimately the most characteristic of the preaching of the Wesleys? What intercourse did Wesley hold with English Non-conformists? What were his views at different periods on Church government? What was the intercourse between John Wesley and John Newton and Charles Simeon respectively? Carefully describe the organisation of the ‘Societies.’ What is the present position as to numbers and extension

of the ‘Old Connexion’ in Great Britain? What was the origin of ‘Lady Huntingdon’s Connexion?’ It is clear that at least a few of the men leaving the University will not be utterly ignorant of the principles and practices of one large section of the Christian Church.

## Religious and Denominational News.

### THE REVIVAL IN EDINBURGH AND THE LONDON MISSION.

The Hon. Arthur and Mrs. Kinnaird invited a number of friends on Tuesday afternoon to hear some accounts from the Rev. Dr. Thomson, of Edinburgh, and the Rev. Dr. Dykes, of the Scotch Church, Regent-square, of the remarkable religious revivals in London. After prayer by Dr. Dykes, and a few words from Mr. Kinnaird,

The Rev. Dr. Thomson then said he would divide his narrative of the revival work in Edinburgh into four heads—the season of preparation, noonday prayer-meetings, evangelistic evening church services, and after-meetings.

1st. It had been observed with much anxiety by himself and brother ministers for some time previous to the revival that there were signs of a depression of religious life among their people, an appearance of cold formalism, to counteract which they began a weekly prayer-meeting, which was, however, ill-attended. They then invited their friend Mr. Moody, who had formerly been known in England for his remarkable gifts as a powerful missionary preacher, to come and assist them. He promised to do this, if they would prepare the way for him by prayer. The prayer-meetings were then held daily, instead of weekly, and soon increased in numbers, so as to be largely attended, when Mr. Moody, and his musical companion Mr. Sankey, arrived. He (Dr. Thomson) and his brother ministers also preached series of awakening sermons on such parts of Scripture as the Seven Churches of Asia, &c., and a general feeling of lively joy in the Lord was observed to replace the former sense of depression.

2nd. After Mr. Moody’s arrival, the noonday prayer-meetings were continued in several places with very crowded attendances, and the requests for intercessory prayer immensely increased, accompanied with others for thanksgiving for conversions in answer to prayer; some remarkable cases of which were mentioned.

3rd. There were each day evening Evangelistic Church services with crowded congregations, and afterwards inquiry meetings; for Mr. Moody was an advocate of these being held after the preaching, under, however, the following strict regulations:—The inquirers exclusively to retire into a separate comfortable room, and to be there joined only by ministers and experienced, well-informed, trustworthy Christians of either sex, well qualified to instruct and advise anxious souls. All mere sensational emotion was thus restrained, and a suitable solemnity preserved without any excesses.

4th. Results. It could be truly said that after two months of these awakening efforts, there was a most marked revival of religious life and earnest attention in all the congregations. The cases of new conversions were numerous. They all held a meeting together one day in the Free Church Hall to the number of 1,500; half the number of the Pentecostal converts.

The church services and all the other meetings in the largest public halls and even in the Corn Exchange were crowded to excess. The places of public amusement became less frequented. One bad dancing saloon was closed, and is now used for prayer-meetings and preaching. Mr. Sankey’s deeply-impressive religious music and singing was extremely liked and most useful, especially to the sick and dying in hospitals. It recalled the ancient Gospel songs spoken of by George Herbert.

The Rev. Dr. Dykes said he had once wholly distrusted the beneficial results of revival efforts, until he had witnessed such a large work of true conversion at the great revival in Ulster where he had a congregation, that he felt strongly reproved for his want of faith, and got a lesson he could never forget. The only obstacle to success in such works was the feebleness of our spiritual desires and consequent lukewarmness of our exertions. It was a remarkable occurrence, in which the hand of God was to be seen, that at a time when special outpourings of His Spirit was observed in some parts of the kingdom, the thought should have suggested itself to English bishops to organise this revival mission in the metropolis, which he felt sure was being largely blessed. It was intended to continue the mid-day prayer-meeting in St. George’s Hall, so successfully conducted by gentlemen chiefly from the north; and a conference was to be held on the subject after the next Thursday’s meeting. The Rev. Dr. Allon, who had seen Mr. Moody at Chicago, gave some interesting information respecting him; after which the meeting closed with prayer.

**BRIXTON INDEPENDENT CHURCH.**—On Thursday evening last the weekly meeting of the congregation here was of a valedictory character, on the occasion of the return of the Rev. John S. Moffat and his wife to the Kuruman in Africa, the scene for so many years of the labours of his venerable father, Rev. John Moffat, D.D. There was a goodly company of kindred and family connections bearing the honoured names of Moffat, Unwin, and Livingstone, and the proceedings throughout were rather those of a family gathering than of a public meeting. Prayers earnestly commending to God the departing missionaries were offered by the pastor (the Rev. J. Baldwin Brown), the Rev. J. B. French, Mr. Pryce, and the Rev. A. Buzacott; and after Mr. Brown had expressed the good wishes and tender regard of those present, the son and his

father, the veteran missionary, Dr. Moffat, replied, explaining the difficulties, struggles, and character of the work in Africa which Mr. and Mrs. Moffat are undertaking, and entreating the continuance of sympathy and prayer from Christians at home. The simplicity, earnestness, and fervour of the service were, we are assured, refreshing and fruitful of good to all present.

## Correspondence.

### THE LIBERAL DEFEAT.

To the Editor of the *Nonconformist*.

SIR,—In reading many able letters which you have published on the causes that have led to the total defeat of Mr. Gladstone’s Administration at the polls, I have observed that most, if not all, of the writers treat that catastrophe as something surprising and greatly needing to be accounted for. As one who has been looking for such an issue for the last twelve months I should like to add a few words to the discussion.

It is natural in our present circumstances to look out for a few salient faults of the late Government, and say that if this had been done, and that undone, they might still have defied their enemies; but human affairs, and especially political affairs, are too complex for this kind of treatment. The late Government has no doubt suffered alike for its sins and its virtues; and on the other hand there is much in its misfortunes which cannot be traced in any way to its own conduct.

Whether there was a Conservative reaction in the strict sense of the word, strong enough to carry the Tories into power, there is at any rate a reaction in the minds of numerous and influential classes by which our opponents were sure whenever an election took place, to profit. We have all been made to feel that we live in a state of social transition. The past five years have seen great changes effected by means of the Legislature, but I would submit that still greater changes have been brought about by the action of natural causes, and these have frightened large numbers of our middle classes. Great trade combinations, strikes, demands for increased wages, enforced by working men’s organisations, difficulties of all kinds wherever the services of the wage-earning classes are required—these have come home to thousands of electors who until lately were accustomed to vote with the Liberal party as a matter of course. It is of no use asking the timid elector what Mr. Gladstone had to do with all this. He may or may not remember that once Mr. Gladstone said the working men are our own flesh and blood, but he looks upon these new and unwelcome pretensions of the artisans as a part of the system of Liberalism and progress, and as phenomena which never showed themselves in the old Whig days, and that is enough. We are going, he says, too fast and too far, and so he votes for the Tories, who cannot help him, instead of for the Liberals, who have not done so. At the East Staffordshire election manufacturers, who had been Liberals all their lives, told Mr. Jaffray’s agents that the great and increasing trouble they had with their workpeople would prevent their voting for the Liberal candidate; and at the recent election for Westminster a regular set was made against Sir Fowell Buxton because he was said to patronise the Civil Service Co-operative Stores. Again, the new property of the country is becoming Conservative. Formerly it was dissatisfied because it could not obtain the recognition and respect to which it considered itself entitled, and it was Liberal. Now it has found a place to its mind. The man who has made a fortune as a manufacturer and bought a large estate is welcomed among country families, provided he is on the right side in politics; and at the present election the Tories have shown a decided predilection for brewers as county members. Probably there never was a period in the history of our country in which so many persons passed from the third to the second rank and from the second to the first rank in the order of wealth, as in the interval between the accession of Mr. Gladstone and the last general election; and for the reasons already noted, these people reinforce rather the Tory than the Liberal party. There is thus a natural reaction going on from social causes quite independent of the merits of the late Administration.

Little need be said here of the great interests which Mr. Gladstone’s Government has offended, because their importance has been recognised. The beer interest has risen in strength like a fuddled giant, and we see the half-ludicrous, half-tragic consequences. I do not think, however, that justice has been done to one cause of the unprecedented activity of the clergy. They exerted themselves greatly in 1868, but since then Mr. Forster has added to the value of their monopoly, and given them more to defend, and better courage with which to defend it.

The faults and errors of the Government must be looked at more closely. The more certain it was that powerful influences were silently working against them, the more carefully should Ministers have guarded their position, and cherished the internal unity of their party. As we all know, they did nothing of the kind. There was the programme of 1868; Ministers were doing their best to work it out, and if they did so their title to public gratitude would be complete. But Mr. Gladstone should have known that a policy requires to be continually developed, so that achievement itself may



not destroy the material of hope. Ministers became over confident, and acted and spoke like men who thought that, having already established a title to eternal gratitude, they might neglect the ordinary prudence of political life. Mr. Gladstone's most trusted advisers, and those whom the *Times* has designated his sycophants in the press, told him that, having a commission from the nation, he had no need to remember who had been his most faithful adherents alike in good and bad fortune, and the great Minister believed it. The most startling and most disastrous manifestation of this feeling took place when Mr. Gladstone expressed his opinion of Nonconformists and the value of their help in his speech on Mr. Miall's last motion. That speech showed England a Minister who could not but lose his party because he had so evidently lost himself.

Here was indeed a situation! A Minister who had nearly accomplished the task he set himself in the eyes of the nation, without any declared policy to invite support or unite his followers, actually going out of his way to strike at his most attached adherents. His enemies are gathering, and he scatters his friends. From that hour confusion, and nothing but confusion, has reigned in the Liberal ranks. While the Tories knew what they wanted, Liberals had no flag, no longer a leader whom they could unhesitatingly follow or implicitly trust. Not only enthusiasm was killed, but even the understanding was bewildered. It was simply impossible that the Liberal party should triumph at the polls under such conditions, and had it been possible, the triumph of the Minister would have been a Liberal disaster. The dissolution came, and it was found that Mr. Gladstone actually believed that all his errors might be condoned, and the want of a policy well supplied by an offer to apply the foreseen surplus wisely and well. The mischief was too deep. Had Mr. Gladstone been able to speak in January, 1874, as clearly, and with the same political confidence as in 1868, his own followers would have fought better, and he would have had the support of many persons who naturally rally to strength of character and conviction, wherever they find it, but who could not recognise these qualities in the Mr. Gladstone of 1874.

I should like to pursue this theme, but I have already trespassed too much on your space. While regretting much this defeat, I am not in the least cast down. The break-up we have witnessed was most necessary, and if Nonconformists are only calm, confident, and faithful to their principles, they must surely, though not immediately, see the triumph of their principles. The Tories have not come in upon their own merits, and they will soon discredit themselves. When the next reaction comes we shall be wanted, and let us take good care how we promise our support.

AN OLD LIBERAL.

#### THE LEADERSHIP OF THE LIBERAL PARTY.

To the Editor of the *Nonconformist*.

SIR,—It is curious to see how soon the members of the late Government and their immediate adherents have been made to feel the consequences of the course pursued, with their assent, by Mr. Forster in regard to the question of national education.

When, in relation to this very question, Mr. Gladstone emphatically told Mr. Miall to withdraw his support from the Government, if he did not wish to continue it, he probably spoke with a consciousness of strength enabling him to dispense with that which he professed lightly to value. And, perhaps, when penning the address to the electors of Greenwich, which either ignored Nonconformist feelings or contained nothing calculated to affect them, it was still the opinion of the Prime Minister that the Liberal party was strong enough to disregard the disaffection of Nonconformists, and could find the support it needed by means of splendid financial offers. In both cases he was mistaken; for month after month, at election after election, the alienation of the staunchest friends of the Ministry showed itself in unmistakable forms, and now it is admitted to have been one of the causes of the severe defeat experienced by the whole Liberal party.

The punishment, however, has not stopped there; for it will now follow the defeated party as its members cross the floor of the House of Commons, and transfer themselves from the Government to the Opposition benches. The new Conservative Cabinet is appointed, but who is to be the leader of "Her Majesty's Opposition"? When Mr. Disraeli's advent to office became certain, it was rumoured that, because of the ill-health of Lord Cairns, the Lord Chancellorship would be put in commission; but Lord Cairns is to occupy the woolsack, and it is suggested that it is the leadership of the Opposition which is to be put into commission instead!

How is this? Primarily, because Mr. Gladstone is believed to be bent upon enjoying a season of well-earned repose, and so the carping Liberals, and the still more carping Tories, who have for the last five years been exhausting their critical arts upon him, will be left to see how the public business can be managed without him. Mr. Cardwell, as Mr. Gladstone's trusted lieutenant, might have been accepted as a leader; but he, too, wishes for repose, and goes to the Lords to enjoy it. Mr. Lowe—well! the unanimity in regard to his unfitness is not so much wonderful as quite natural. Lord Hartington and Mr. Goschen are both thought to have some qualifications, but neither is suspected of possessing the special qualities required in a leader who

has to build up afresh the fortunes of a broken-down party and lead it on to new successes.

But is there no one else? Yes! there is one member of the late Administration who, for his statesmanship, his breadth of view, his tact, his courage, and his skill in handling the House of Commons, has been the subject of continued laudation on the part of many Liberals, both in Parliament and in the press, ever since he went into office. The hour has come, and, surely, here is the man with it. Mr. Forster has earned no end of gratitude and confidence: now is the time for a payment of the debt.

Strange to say, however, the very journals which have egged Mr. Forster on in his educational course—which poured their scorn and anger on the Bradford Liberals who refused to allow him longer to misrepresent them—*Times*, *Telegraph*, *Spectator*—all agree in putting him in the same category with Mr. Lowe, and declaring that he is "for the present impossible as the Liberal leader!"

Why impossible? Not because he is not the man he was when psalms were being chanted in his praise. Unfortunately for him, and for those who now reluctantly abandon him, it is just because he is unchanged that it is felt that he is unfitted for the present exigency. Had he availed himself of the day of grace given him when Mr. Bright returned to office, and the Nonconformists were momentarily placated—had he gone down to his constituents with words of conciliation, instead of defiance—had he even taken shelter behind his colleagues, who, one after the other, during the electoral storm, abandoned the 25th Clause of the Education Act, the path to reconciliation would not have been closed, and Mr. Forster might have entered on a new course, which would have both gratified his own ambition and served the party of which he is a conspicuous member.

It is now "too late," and nothing can be more significant than the reasons assigned by his admirers why the late ex-Minister of Education cannot lead those who, probably, for some time to come, will sit on the left of the Speaker's chair. "It is not," says the *Spectator*, "from any want of the statesman in him, but rather from the fact that he has shown himself to be the statesman of the whole nation on a question of the most critical party feeling," that he is incapacitated for the post. But "he has irritated the sectarian passions of a small but very active section of Liberals," and, while the irritation lasts, "it is obvious enough that any attempt to constitute Mr. Forster the leader of the Liberals in the House of Commons, would be premature, not to say mischievous." It is true that "the party of Mr. Miall and Mr. Illingworth has a very thin representation in the new House of Commons"; but "the Liberal party must look, in some measure, to its allies out of the House, as well as to its allies in it, and, no doubt, the premature choice of Mr. Forster as leader would neutralise the whole Dissenting vote, even if it did not turn the Dissenters into provisional Tories."

So at length we have the acknowledgment that the Nonconformist allies of the Liberal party—however narrow or wrong-headed—are numerous enough, and important enough, to count for something in the counsels of the Liberal leaders. "Sweet are the uses of adversity!" for it has already opened eyes which seemed to be hopelessly closed, and begotten a consciousness of the importance of facts which before the election were either denied or disregarded.

It is scarcely worth while considering whether this was the issue to which Mr. Forster himself looked forward, as probable, or possible. If there were any foundation for the belief that he was qualifying himself for membership in a coalition Ministry, it is obvious that he has mistaken his way grievously, and will pay heavily for his mistake. If, on the other hand, he was stimulated by the better hope of becoming the head of a future Liberal Administration, it is equally clear that he has adopted the worst means of realising his hope. A great present opportunity would have been his at this moment, but he has lost it, and years may pass before another like it will be given him.

This general acknowledgment that Mr. Forster is at present an "impossible" Liberal leader, is—in conjunction with the reason assigned for the fact—the first streak of light in a dark sky to raise the hopes and expectations of Nonconformists. For if the Liberal Opposition cannot be led on Mr. Forster's terms, a *fortiori* a new Liberal Government cannot come in on such terms. If "the allies without" are to be consulted now, their assent and consent must be had before the Liberal party can again ride prosperously in the high places of power.

Let Nonconformists take the pregnant hint. Let the suggestion that a leadership now considered "premature" may be acceptable hereafter, incite them to such a steady and resolute course of action as will make a perpetuation of Mr. Forster's educational policy impossible, whatever becomes of its now discredited author.

AN OLD CAMPAIGNER.

Feb. 23, 1874.

#### LIBERAL LOSSES IN SOUTH WALES.

To the Editor of the *Nonconformist*.

SIR,—Under "Election Notes" in your last week's issue you say—"The Welsh losses require explanation, and will no doubt receive it." Lost the explanation should not be given by other and more competent

observers, I beg to mention the following causes amongst others which account for the result. I speak more especially of Carmarthenshire, because I know that constituency better. But I believe the same causes have been in active operation in Cardiganshire also.

1. There were wild and unreasonable expectations raised in 1868, such as the Disestablishment of the Church in Wales, great reduction in the rates, &c. After making such sacrifice in voting for Sartoris, strong hopes were entertained by many that some palpable benefit would soon accrue to them. Such dreams have not of course been realised. Hence a feeling of disappointment in a great number of the electors.

2. There is also a very deep ignorance of political principles among the greater proportion of the people. Half of the Carmarthenshire electors never read a newspaper of any kind from one end of the year to the other. They have never yet been taught their duties as electors.

3. There was also a very general disbelief in the secrecy of the ballot, combined with a vivid recollection of the sad story of the 1868 evictions, and the persistent assertions of the Tory agents that the landlords would be sure to know how they had voted.

4. The dog and gun licences, the nuisance and school board rates, all attributed to the Liberal Government, have occasioned much grumbling and dissatisfaction among the farmers. The strife occasioned by the permissive formation of school boards, the exorbitant charges of returning officers and auditors, for the most part opposed to the introduction of boards, together with the bitter hostility of the clergy, who incessantly harp on the expense and infidelity of school boards—these have produced an impression on a large class of the less enlightened rate-payers. I am sorry to say also, that with many the existing Government, whether Liberal or Conservative, has the blame for everything that goes wrong.

5. The Liberals have trusted too much to the ballot, believing that under its protection the people would now be sure to vote according to their principles if left alone. Hence there has been great slackness on the part of the Liberal canvassers in many instances, and neglect of that great and legitimate pressure of friends for consistency to principle. Whereas the opposite party brought to bear on the elector from every quarter an all but irresistible pressure utterly regardless of the ballot.

6. The obstinate blundering of Gladstone and Forster on the principle of the 25th Clause of the Education Act, and their treatment of the friends of religious equality, had destroyed all enthusiasm for the Gladstone Ministry among the more enlightened Nonconformists. Almost all the enthusiasm that existed was owing to the personal popularity and courage of the two candidates, especially Mr. Powell.

7. The advanced views of the Liberal candidates on the principles of religious equality offended many of the Whig squires, who therefore either stayed at home or went over to the other side. On the other hand, the time was too short to rouse enthusiasm on this question in every nook of this large country, and it was not felt that disestablishment was now to be decided.

8. Last, but not least, there was great lack of organisation on the Liberal side.

There is, however, an intense feeling amongst the Nonconformists of the country on account of these defeats, though I have met with no one who pretends to regret the overthrow of the Liberal Ministry. There is great indignation at the unfaithfulness of many Nonconformists—the majority of them did their work nobly. There is also deep sympathy for the two Liberal gentlemen who came forward to contest Carmarthenshire at such sacrifice of their money, ease, and friends. I am glad to hear that one of them, at least, is not at all discouraged, but is ready again to stand whenever opportunity occurs. Meanwhile, the Liberals everywhere are fast learning the lessons of the late defeat. With the same men and the same principles, but with a more enlightened and united Liberal party, and with the enthusiasm of 1868, the decision of to-day will be triumphantly reversed to-morrow. The work of the present is to learn, and teach, and organise, and it is being done.

The return of a Conservative for the Carmarthen borough was accidental. If they had another election to-day, they would be found in the good old Liberal road. It was a question here with the Nonconformists how many of them could stay at home or change sides to please a much respected employer, without endangering the return of the Liberal candidate. This has proved to be a dangerous game, but is not likely to be repeated.

The Cardiganshire contest was a mob of the well-organised Tory forces on an unprepared and scattered rural population. It lasted for five days only, and gave no time for the Liberals to organise and enlighten public opinion. I am confident that with the next turn of the political tide, Welsh Nonconformity will assert itself and vindicate its own honour.

Yours, &c.,

LEWIS JAMES.

Brynbank, Narberth, Feb. 20, 1874.

#### CARDIGANSHIRE BOROUGH.

To the Editor of the *Nonconformist*.

SIR,—Will you allow me to draw your attention to a



slight error which appeared in your issue of the 18th instant, touching the recent election of a member for Cardigan and its contributory boroughs—it reads thus:—"The defeat of the Liberals in the Monmouth and Cardigan boroughs, Carnarvonshire, and most of all Cardiganshire, is a surprise." I rejoice to say that the boroughs of Cardiganshire have fully sustained their reputation in the choice of a representative; having thrown off the yoke of what is termed "moderate" Liberalism—personified in the late M.P., Sir Thomas Lloyd—they have found a worthy member of the "advanced" school to fill the vacancy. The gentleman I refer to is Mr. D. Davies, of Llandinam, who is well known throughout the Principality as a staunch reformer and a Nonconformist of the genuine type.

I offer no defence for the disgraceful verdict delivered by the county. Evidently, the vital principles of Nonconformity were ruthlessly trampled upon on that memorable day,—the 10th of February, 1874. Even Dissenting ministers, (in two or three cases) deacons and members of Nonconformist Churches, co-operated heartily with the Conservative party in order to secure the triumphant return of the Tory son of a highly respected and conscientious Liberal father. This is really an alarming yet the true state of affairs in Cardiganshire; however, we hope the day is soon to dawn when the Tivy-side squirearchy will no longer be permitted to mislead and terrify illiterate voters to sacrifice their rights, interests, and principles at the altar of political servitude. Cardiganshire never can be truly represented except by a Radical Nonconformist, and with the aid of an amended Ballot Act we shall undoubtedly "retrieve our lost position."

I am, Sir, yours, &c.,  
T.

Cardigan, February 20, 1874.

#### MR. BAINES AND THE LEEDS ELECTION.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

DEAR SIR,—A letter in your paper for the week before last, signed "A Liberal," contains a statement with regard to Mr. Baines and the Leeds election which certainly ought not to pass uncontradicted. Your correspondent says, "The loss of Mr. Baines' seat at Leeds is entirely caused by his backing Mr. Forster through thick and thin." Now anyone who knows anything at all about the Leeds election knows perfectly well that such a statement is absolutely untrue. As the meeting held in Leeds on January 29 for the formation of a Nonconformist committee, Mr. Baines' candidature was heartily adopted. The leading Nonconformist laymen and ministers were upon his committee; and so far as was known to the executive (of which I was a member) and to the various ward committees (which I visited) there was not the slightest indication of any defection on the part of the Nonconformist electors, or indeed of any apathy on their part in working for the return of their old member.

Your correspondent must therefore have drawn very liberally on "A Liberal" imagination when he penned that paragraph in his letter to you, or possibly "the wish was father to the thought." In a similar letter which he sent under another signature to the *English Independent*, that paragraph was omitted: possibly in the meantime he had been enlightened by some one possessing a knowledge of the facts.

The real cause of our disgrace in Leeds will probably never be told till the next election, but for the credit of Leeds Nonconformists I must ask you to allow me to give an unqualified denial to the statement that they had anything whatever to do with it.

I remain, &c.,

A. HOLDEN BYLES.

Headingley, February 21, 1874.

#### THE IRISH ELECTIONS.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—Our Irish elections are now over, and I presume the elections on your side of the Channel are almost completed. We are amazed at the turn matters have taken with you—that in three short weeks the great, perhaps the greatest, Minister the country ever had should find himself so badly beaten; that instead of being at the head of a large majority he should find himself so far behind. Speak not of the fickleness of Ireland after this. Ireland has, in the main, proved true to Mr. Gladstone; and has even done something to break the force of his fall, whilst England and Scotland have turned their backs upon him.

Ulster, where Mr. Gladstone, two years ago, was threatened with Lynch law in case of his accepting an invitation to a banquet, has declared unmistakably in his favour. The truth is, that the heart of Ulster beats true to the late Prime Minister. It used to be the boast of the northern representatives, "We are twenty-nine," but the nine, at least, are gone, and the twenty are going. I doubt not, at the next general election, the Tory M.P.'s for Ulster will be reduced, at least, by another half score. The truth is, the Land Act and ballot-box have brought confusion into the Conservative ranks everywhere in Ireland. Nor are the landlords alone in their discomfiture: the power of the priests is giving way also—as is proved by two notable instances, not in the north, but in Leinster and Munster—I refer to Limerick and Louth. Mr. Kelly, who sought election in the former county, and had in his favour the bishop and entire body of the clergy, found himself at

the declaration of the poll, the lowest down of the three candidates. Mr. C. Fortescue, notwithstanding a strong and almost tearful appeal on his behalf by the Roman Catholic Primate to the electors of Louth, was left in a miserable minority. Let us hope that the late Chief Secretary for Ireland will never again occupy a position of influence in a Liberal Government.

The contribution of Ireland to the British Parliament is as nearly as can be calculated thirty-two Conservatives, and seventy-one Liberals—of the latter some fifty-eight are committed to a lesser or a greater extent to Home-Rule, denominational education, and an improvement of the Land Act. I presume the first on the list will begin, and end, with an annual motion, and a division in the House—as to the other two they must be reconsidered. The Land Act, though a great measure of justice to the tenantry, to justify its existence should have gone further. Even in the north, where the Ulster custom has been legalised, the chairman of the county from the indefiniteness of the law has an almost unlimited freedom in deciding what is, and what is not, the Ulster custom; and instead of what is well-known to have been the custom—namely, the outgoing tenant letting his interest in his farm to the highest and best bidder, restrictions are imposed by the Rent Office and it is frequently allowed to interfere with the transfer. Ulster wants this remedied; and the other provinces ask that the Ulster custom may be extended to them—all the Irish members, Conservatives included, are pledged to advocate an amendment of the Land Act. So that Mr. Disraeli will have either to make good his theory by cogent arguments, that the Land Act is a measure of spoliation—or yield to the triple force from Ireland of Home Rulers, Liberals, and Conservatives.

I confess, however, that what I dread most is the policy he may pursue on the Education Question. When the Conservatives were in power before, it is well known they were prepared to yield to the demands of the Romish hierarchy in regard to the endowment and chartering the Catholic University, and they have now the example of England and Scotland to encourage them in the matter of primary education. And then the Tories have, I understand, received considerable political support from the Roman Catholics at the elections on your side of the Channel; moreover, as something must be conceded, and they cannot give Home Rule, and are strongly opposed to "Tenant Right," I fear that a bill in principle akin to the Education Acts for England and Scotland, will be found the most agreeable to the ministry, as it will be the most acceptable to the Romish Clergy. Then we shall have "levelling up," with a vengeance. I hope the Nonconformists and Liberationists will prepare to do battle against such a proposal. Nothing, not even the endowment of the priests, would be so disastrous as this—it would put the youth of the country, north, south, east, and west, in the hands, and under the control of the most Ultramontane priesthood in Europe—and inflict untold hardships upon the Protestant minority in this island. The advocates of a free Church in a free State have reason to rejoice at the advent in the House of Commons of such men as Mr. William Whitworth, for Newry, who, I trust, will walk in his father's footsteps; of Mr. Dickson, for Dungannon, who is an ardent Voluntary; of Mr. Sharman Crawford, for Down, who will disappoint his friends if he does not take the same interest in the "Liberation Society" as his father took many years ago. I am persuaded that Mr. McCarthy, for Tyrone, though nominally Conservative, will be with them on most questions. His hatred of Ritualism is such, that I doubt not he would wish to give the Evangelical members of the English the power which he and others rejoice in possessing in Ireland, of purging the Church of all Romish dogma and practices. The member for the county of Londonderry, an able man, Mr. Law, late Solicitor-General, bears a high character in his profession, and is a true Liberal, but sitting so near to Mr. Gladstone he will, I presume, follow his leader on most questions. Dr. Smyth will have greater freedom, and I think good may depend upon his able advocacy, and his vote in favour of the removal of all ecclesiastical monopolies. During the passing of the Church Bill for Ireland he did much to form public opinion in favour of it among his own community, who did him the honour in return of placing him in the Moderator's chair for two successive years. We all hope that Dr. Smyth may have a long and useful career in the British Parliament. He is a man of considerable information on most subjects, accomplished as a scholar, a keen debater, eloquent generally as a speaker, and one, whom to know in private life is a privilege and a pleasure. The feeling here, in Ulster, is that Dr. Smyth is too good a man for the House of Commons. I desire to bespeak for him the confidence of English Nonconformists.

As I wish to be accurate in all my statements, allow me to explain that I was mistaken when I said last week that the clergy of Louth had cast off Mr. Fortescue; it would appear from the fact of the Roman Catholic archbishop's unsuccessful appeal on his behalf that the people rather have cast off the clergy. As to the question in reference to Mr. Wilson's parentage, attributed to Sir Richard Wallace, I am bound to say that the friends of the latter deny that he used the words.

I am, Sir, yours, &c.,  
S.

Feb. 21, 1874.

#### THE EVANGELISATION OF THE WORKING CLASSES.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—My attention has been called to an account in the current number of the *Nonconformist* of a meeting held in the Borough road Chapel at which I am represented to have said that fifty-eight per cent. of the people of the metropolis attend some place of worship, and that the remaining forty-two per cent. were made up of infidels and servants. This statement is too serious to be allowed to go without correction, and I shall be glad if you will give me the opportunity of informing your readers what I did say—namely, that fifty-eight per cent. of the people of London ought to attend the house of God, and that forty-two per cent. might claim exemption as being invalids, housekeepers, children, &c. Further, I stated that if fifty-eight per cent. should seek to attend the house of God on any given Sunday, it would require the accommodation to be doubled, and as the population increased at the rate of 50,000 annually, matters grow worse notwithstanding all our boasted church and chapel extension. I need not trouble you with any remarks concerning the present causes of indifference, nor the principles on which a Christian Instruction Society should be based, in order to overtake the moral heathenism of the people among whom we dwell.

I am, faithfully yours,  
EDWARD SCHNADHORST.

Hon. Sec. Christian Instruction Society.

February 24, 1874.

#### RELIGIOUS ENDOWMENTS.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—Does not Mr. Sharpe somewhat mistake the basis of the Liberation Society when he writes concerning the argument against endowments grounded on the temptation to clerical insincerity—"Unfortunately this is an argument which the Liberation Society cannot use"? Surely the society is in no way committed to the principle of doctrinal trust-deeds. With regard to the main question, in his parallel between such deeds and subscription to articles, your correspondent appears to overlook one essential difference. Where such deeds exist, Nonconformist ministers are not required to subscribe them. Probably in the majority of cases they have never even read them, and certainly they are no part of the contract between a minister and his congregation. As a Nonconformist minister I am not the incumbent of an ecclesiastical building, but the pastor of a Christian society. If my beliefs should so far diverge from those of that society as to make it desirable to dissolve the connection, I should cheerfully acknowledge the perfect right to do so, and, indeed, should consider any organisation where this could not be effected a gravely imperfect one.

But it would never occur to me to mould my belief and teaching after the model of any legal schedule, and I should seriously question whether a minister who was capable of thus compromising himself was fit for the sacred office.

As a matter, however, concerning trustees and churches rather than ministers, I should be glad to see it receiving the earnest attention of Nonconformists. I fear that it is too common to leave the preparation of a deed entirely to lawyers, who are naturally guided by precedent. Should not gentlemen who are asked to become trustees of new places of worship, instead of signing anything presented without even reading it, carefully consider the relation of our churches to the Divine Word and to the spirit of truth?

Yours, &c.,

H. C. LEONARD.

Bognor.

#### THE TWENTY-FIFTH CLAUSE.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—As some Churchmen still wonder why Nonconformists object to the 25th clause, I will tell them.

I need not remind them that Nonconformists object, and always have objected, to one man being required to pay for the spread of another man's sectarianism. "But," say Mr. Forster's friends, "when the Government makes a grant to a school you must not think you are paying for the sectarianism taught there; the public money pays for the secular teaching only: the school-pence of the children pay for the sectarianism." The distinction is perhaps not very plain; but Nonconformists have tried to make the best of it. When, however, an "indigent" parent comes before a school board and asks that his child may be paid for (school-pence and all) at a sectarian school the case is clear. It is certain that now the taxpayer and the ratepayer pay for both the secular and the sectarian teaching.

What, then, do Nonconformists propose should be done in such a case? Simply this. That, instead of using the 25th clause, the school board should use the 17th clause under which the child may be admitted to a board school free.\* The board should say to the indigent parent: "We will give you an excellent secular education for nothing; we will also give you religious

\* The 17th clause says:—"Every child attending a school provided by any school board shall pay such weekly fee as may be prescribed by the school board; but the school board may remit the whole or any part of such fee."



education, viz., the reading of the Bible with such explanations as are suited to the capacities of children; and all this 'free gratis for nothing.' "Oh!" says the indigent parent, "but that won't satisfy me, I require not only a good secular and religious education for my child, but over and above all that I require that he shall have the sweet nectar of my own peculiar sectarianism, and all at the public expense." Now we Nonconformists think that the board might reply to such a parent:—"Very well, if you want that you must pay for it, or go to the sect that provides it at its own expense. We don't keep that article on our premises. It is a luxury we don't even sell to those who could pay for it; and we don't intend to give it to you, or to anybody else, for nothing."

This is the reason why we Nonconformists object to the 25th clause, and why we think the 17th clause ought to be used instead.

Let me add that it also seems strange to us Nonconformists that while we hear from gentlemen who ought by this time to know better, so much rubbish about the right of the indigent parent to what is called a "choice of schools," these same gentlemen seem to care nothing about the case of hundreds of thousands of Nonconformist parents in the rural districts, who, though they can, and do, pay for their children's education, have no "choice of schools" whatever, but are compelled to send them into Anglican schools, filled with clerical, and perhaps Romanising, influences, from which there is no shelter except from a conscience clause, which everybody knows is a sham.

FREDERICK S. WILLIAMS.

Nottingham.

### THE RECENT GENERAL ELECTION.

The result of the poll for Wexford county was as follows:—

Sir George Bowyer (H.R.)	3,407
Mr. Chevalier O'Leary (H.R.)	2,794
Mr. John Talbot Power (L.)	1,332
Mr. Hall Dare (C.)	1,224

Beth Sir George Bowyer and Mr. O'Leary are new members.

This election makes the House of Commons complete. The number of members who have been returned is 652, the double election at Athlone having been counterbalanced by the return of Mr. Callan for the county of Louth as well as for Dundalk. Since Viscount St. Lawrence was certified as having been duly elected for the borough of Galway he has succeeded to the earldom of Howth, and, as an Irish peer cannot sit for an Irish constituency, a seat at Galway, which was filled by a Liberal, is vacant. Another seat, also filled by a Liberal, is shortly to be vacated at Oxford, through the elevation of Mr. Cardwell to the peerage. These cannot be filled until the House has assembled and elected a Speaker. From first to last 303 Liberals and 349 Conservatives have been returned, thus giving the latter a majority of 46 votes. As the Liberals have lost 95 and gained 39, their net loss is 56 seats, equivalent to 112 votes on a division.

### MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS.

The Hackney petition was, up to Saturday night, the only one lodged against a return during the recent general election.

A petition will be presented against the return of Mr. Sheridan, member for Dudley. The petition alleges intimidation and other illegal practices.

All the ten seats for Essex being now occupied by Conservatives, it is proposed to have a county demonstration of some kind in celebration of the event.

Petitions have been lodged against the returns of Dr. O'Leary for Drogheda; and Messrs. H. A. Herbert and R. P. Blennerhasset, the members for the county Kerry.

The electors of Hastings intend celebrating the return by them of the only two Liberals for Sussex and the opening of a new Liberal club-house by holding a banquet.

The supporters of Mr. Bonham-Carter at Winchester, which city he has represented in Parliament for twenty-seven years, are about to present him with a portrait of himself as a memento of his services.

The Middlesex Conservative Registration Association have resolved to hold a demonstration at the Crystal Palace about the middle of May for the purpose of celebrating the recent triumph gained by the Conservative party by returning two members for the county.

Counsel has advised Mr. George Elliott, the unsuccessful candidate for North Durham, that there is ample evidence to support a petition against the return of Messrs. Bell and Palmer on the ground of intimidation, and a petition will therefore be lodged.

The Liberals of Carnarvonshire have decided to take counsel's opinion as to the validity of the late election, the returning officer having allowed the ballot papers from each polling district to be counted separately. Should the opinion be favourable, Mr. Pennant's return will be petitioned against.

The ceremony—it is merely a ceremony—of electing sixteen representative peers for Scotland took place at Holyrood Palace on Wednesday. The Duke of Buccleuch has long enjoyed the privilege of nominating the entire batch; and his

list was again accepted by a practically unanimous vote.

It is now believed that Mr. Callan, M.P., will elect to retain his seat for the borough of Dundalk. This will create a vacancy in County Louth. At a conference of Nationalists it was resolved to put forward John Mitchell for the county. Mr. Mitchell is brother-in-law of Mr. John Martin, M.P., Secretary to the Home Rule League.

Mr. Disraeli will not obtain his re-election without a contest. Mr. William Talley, who polled 151 votes at the late election, has issued an address to the electors asking them for "their united support, without any disrespect to the distinguished men who at present are numerically strong, but internally weak."

Mr. R. A. Cross, M.P., has issued his address to his South-west Lancashire constituents, soliciting re-election. He trusts they will approve the course he has taken in accepting the office of Home Secretary, and states that the work which must necessarily be done before Parliament assemblies will prevent him from meeting them as frequently as he could have wished.

Mr. Gladstone and all the members of the late Cabinet have been invited to a banquet to be held during the Easter recess in the Victoria Hall, Sunderland, under the presidency of Sir Hedworth Williamson, to celebrate the return of the thirteen Liberal candidates for the constituencies of Durham. It is expected that all the thirteen members will be present.

LONDONDERRY COUNTY.—The *Pall Mall Gazette* states that the question of the eligibility of a clergyman to be elected a member of Parliament is likely to be raised in Ireland by petition—the case being that of the Rev. Professor Smyth, a Presbyterian minister, who has been returned for the county of Derry. [We think this is a mistake: Mr. Smyth is not "a clerk in holy orders," and is no more a clergyman by law than Dissenting ministers who have sat and still sit in the House.]

THE VACANCY FOR OXFORD, created by the elevation of Mr. Cardwell to the peerage, is likely to be keenly contested. The Liberal candidate is Mr. J. D. Lewis, who sat for Devonport in the late Parliament. He states that he is favourable to the abolition of the 25th Section of the Education Act, and to the opening of parish churchyards to Dissenting ministers, and he is opposed to Ritualist innovations in the Church of England. He has on one or two occasions, he says, voted for the Permissive Bill, but he will not do so in future. Mr. Lewis's opponent is Mr. Hall, who lately contested the City in the Conservative interest. Mr. Hall, who is a brewer, was defeated a fortnight ago by a majority of eighty-four.

ELECTIONEERING PARTISANSHIP.—The committee appointed by the heads of the Liberal party of North-east Lancashire have reported on the arrangements made for the polling. The returning officers were all Tories, and they appointed twenty-one Tory presiding officers and seven Liberals. The poll-clerks, with few exceptions, were Tories, and one of them was allowed to act for the Tory Committee. At the counting of the votes, out of twenty assistants and clerks to record, seventeen were Tories. Persons came into the counting-room who had no business with the election, and who had not made a declaration of secrecy; and further, intelligence was conveyed by someone to those outside.

THE BALLOT AT SHAFTESBURY.—The greatest efforts are being made to discover the twenty persons who, having voted for Mr. Bennett-Stanford in the autumn, gave their support to Mr. Seymour on Tuesday week, and thus reduced the Tory majority by 40. To this end, neighbours are endeavouring to act as common informers against each other, and a whole host of spies and inquirers are at work. The employers of workmen whose names are on the register are censured for not having made sure of the votes of all their men, and altogether things are in a most uncomfortable state. The agents and friends of Mr. Bennett-Stanford clearly see that he holds his seat by a very uncertain tenure.—*Western Gazette*.

ESSEX.—Our correspondent for this county writes:—"The elections for this county having closed, there is quite a lull in political matters. While in one county in England the Liberals are preparing a demonstration to commemorate the return of thirteen Liberal members to Parliament, in Essex the Tories are about to celebrate the return of ten Tories, and Mr. Disraeli is to be asked to attend the dinner. A Colchester physician subscribed ten guineas to the restoration fund of a church in honour of the achievement of what he calls a great constitutional victory in the return of two Conservatives for the borough. The two clergymen who gave orders for the bells of their respective churches to ring in their excess of jubilation at the defeat of the Liberals have been generally censured for the indecency of the proceeding; and one person who was mentioned as having done the same thing has publicly denied it, and expressed his disgust at such an insult being offered to Liberal Churchmen. Several Church clergymen with small incomes are chagrined at the result of the elections. They are in favour of disestablishment, hoping that the reform would lead to a redistribution of the loaves and fishes. They feel themselves farther off than ever from such a consummation. The Dissenters in the eastern division of the county regret the failure of the proposed opposition to the return of the two Conservative members; but, considering the absence of any pre-arrangement for the contest, it was wise not to enter upon it; but the Liberal party are determined that in the future

the Conservatives will not be allowed to have it all their own way in the registration courts, and when another election occurs their forces will be in a condition to make a determined stand."

THE TORY MAJORITY DISSECTED.—The following appears in the *Leeds Mercury* under the signature of "F. M. F.":—"I do not think the statement you have republished from the London *Spectator*, entitled 'The Inferences from the elections,' gives a conclusive or exhaustive résumé of the causes of the Liberal defeat. In the first place, the divisions on our side are very slightly alluded to. To this cause we may trace the Tory successes in Chelsea, Dublin, Glasgow, Leeds, Newcastle, Northampton, Nottingham (2), Scarborough, Southwark, Stoke-upon-Trent, Tower Hamlets, Tamworth, Wigan (2). This makes fifteen votes lost, or 30 on a division. The towns named above, with one or two exceptions, are thorough Liberal constituencies, and the Liberal vote outnumbered the Tory one by many thousands. One by one as vacancies occur, the Conservatives are certain to lose their stand in these boroughs. Next we have to take into account the towns of Chatham, Devonport, Portsmouth, and Plymouth; these give the Tories a gain of five votes, or ten on a division. Knowing all these places well, I can safely say that the dockyard labourers and others who have supported the Conservatives have done so in the hope of a profuse expenditure on the navy from the new Government. Let Disraeli disappoint them, and they will forsake his cause to-morrow; for apart from the above consideration, the inhabitants of our arsenals are Liberals and something more. Then we have what I call snap successes—victories won by a neck, which are not likely to be repeated. Thirsk was gained by one vote, Bedford by four votes, Northallerton by seven, Bath by six, Petersfield by eleven, the Isle of Wight by ten, Ayr by fourteen, Cambridge by fifteen, and twenty-six votes gained by the Tories by a majority of 968, or less than thirty-seven in each case. How can this be termed reaction in the face of the enormous Liberal majorities in many of our largest towns? The *Spectator* does not take into account the Irish vote. This, under the direct orders of their clergy and press, was cast for the Tories, and no doubt in Salford, Manchester, Warrington, and numerous other places, turned the scale. I reckon Disraeli owes at least sixteen of his majority to the Catholics. How long will they support his administration when a policy of vigour is inaugurated in Ireland and Orangeism is once more in the ascendant? The city of London is opposed to corporation reform; this will explain somewhat the reaction there. The Church is exceedingly powerful in the cathedral towns, and we need not wonder that the parsons of Canterbury, Exeter, Lincoln, Norwich, Salisbury, and Winchester should have moved heaven and earth to revenge themselves on Gladstone for his assault on the Irish Establishment. Disraeli gains six votes in these cities. Fashionable places like Brighton and Cheltenham, full of half-pay officers, retired clergymen, and dandified old maids, naturally fell away from the Liberals. It needs no seer, also, to point out the prevailing influence in towns like Bury St. Edmunds, Cambridge, Christchurch, Lewes, and Windsor. Neither, with free trade in land emblazoned on our colours, can we be surprised at the territorial magnates raising the counter flag of ancient monopoly and ancient wrong in the counties. Let us place with the above deductions the publican interest, heretofore Liberal, and which will not long support Toryism; and I fancy, when we sum up, we shall recover our spirits a little, and think less of this great victory of the Conservatives."

### THE NEW MINISTRY.

Mr. Disraeli waited upon the Queen at Windsor on Friday, and obtained Her Majesty's approval of the following appointments:—

First Lord of the Treasury	Mr. Disraeli.
Lord Chancellor	Lord Cairns.
Lord President of the Council	The Duke of Richmond.
Lord Privy Seal	The Earl of Malmesbury.
Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs	The Earl of Derby.
Secretary of State for India	The Marquis of Salisbury.
Secretary of State for the Colonies	The Earl of Carnarvon.
Secretary of State for War	Mr. Gathorne Hardy.
Secretary of State for Home Department	Mr. R. A. Cross.
First Lord of the Admiralty	Mr. Ward Hunt.
Chancellor of the Exchequer	Mr. Stafford Northcote.
Postmaster-General	Lord John Manners.

The twelve Ministers named, six from the Lords and six from the Commons, constitute the Cabinet.

Mr. W. H. Smith will be Financial Secretary to the Treasury, and Viscount Sandon will be Vice-President of the Council, Minister of Education, in effect. Sir O. B. Adderley is to be President of the Board of Trade; Lord Henry Lennox, First Commissioner of Public Works; and Mr. Hart Dyke, Patronage Secretary to the Treasury.

Sir John Pakington will be raised to the peerage with the title of Baron Hampton.

Sir John Karslake, after much hesitation and doubt whether his health will bear a strain that was cruelly felt six years since, has consented to serve again as Attorney-General, and Sir Richard Baggalay will resume the office of Solicitor-General.

The Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs will be the Hon. R. Bourke; for the Home Department, Sir Henry Selwin-Ibbetson. The Duchess of Wellington will



probably be the new Mistress of the Robes. The Marquis of Bath is named for the office of Lord Chamberlain, and the Earl of Bradford for the post of Master of the Horse. Mr. Disraeli has offered the chairmanship of Ways and Means, the post filled in the last Parliament by Mr. Bonham-Carter, to Mr. Goldney, M.P. for Chippenham.

The Duke of Abercorn has declined, for domestic reasons, to resume the office of Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, and no one has yet been appointed; but Sir Michael Hicks-Beach will be the Chief Secretary for Ireland.

The *Standard* regrets to learn that the state of Irish business in the first session of the new Parliament will prevent the elevation of Dr. Ball to the Irish Chancellorship. It is hoped that an arrangement may be made by which, when Irish business in the House of Commons permits, the learned gentleman, who of course will be Attorney-General, may attain the yet higher distinction to which he is eminently entitled. The following appointments are probable:—Lord Chancellor, Mr. Brewster; Attorney-General, Mr. Plunkett; Solicitor-General, Mr. Purcell; Law-Adviser, Mr. Gibson.

#### NEW HONOURS AND APPOINTMENTS.

The Marquis of Westminster is to be created a duke, and Viscount Sydney, the late Lord Chamberlain, an earl. The Ribbon of the Bath has been bestowed upon Lord Odo Russell, English Ambassador at Berlin.

The titles of the new peers are as follows:—Mr. Cardwell is to be Baron Rivington, of Ellerbeck; Mr. Chichester Fortescue, Baron Carlingford; Lord Enfield will be Viscount Enfield; Sir Thomas Freemantle, Lord Chiltern; Mr. Hammond, Baron Hammond, of Kingston-on-Hull.

The list of new baronets has been further extended. The recipients of the honour are Sir Charles Trevelyan, K.C.B., in recognition of his eminent civil services; Mr. Matthew Wilson, of Ashton Hall, near Skipton, the newly elected member for the Northern Division of the West Riding; Dr. George Burrows, President of the Royal College of Physicians, on the ground, to use the words of Mr. Gladstone, of "his high position and the eminent services he has rendered to the profession"; Mr. Fraser Grove, the defeated Liberal candidate for South Wilts; Mr. H. S. Thompson, late M.P. for Whitby; and Mr. J. Heathcote Amory, the senior member for Tiverton. Mr. Thomas M'Clure, late member for Belfast; Mr. Green Price, who unsuccessfully contested the Radnor boroughs; Mr. W. Miller, of Manderston; Mr. Charles Forster, M.P. for Walsall.

The report that Mr. Ellice, M.P., will be made a peer has been authoritatively contradicted.

Mr. George Young, Lord Advocate, has accepted the judgeship in the Court of Session vacant by the resignation of Lord Cowan.

#### GRATITUDE OF THE COLOURED RACE.

A few weeks ago a great meeting of coloured citizens was held at the Cooper Institute, New York, for the purpose of giving a welcome to Lord Alfred S. Churchill and other English friends of the emancipated race. The chair was appropriately taken by the Rev. Henry Highland Garnet, D.D., a minister of colour, whom many of our readers will remember for the earnest eloquence with which on many English platforms he has pleaded the cause of his down-trodden countrymen. The meeting was attended by not fewer than two thousand persons of African descent, and the resolutions adopted show that the negroes of New York not only appreciate the blessings of freedom, but take a deep interest in the welfare of their less fortunate brethren in other parts of the world. The first resolution was a peculiarly appropriate one:—

That our deepest gratitude and praise should be rendered to Almighty God for His signal mercy towards our race in their emancipation in all territories held by Great Britain and the United States; and that we will ever hold in grateful remembrance the names of the pioneers of anti-slavery in those nations by whose labours, sacrifices, and perils our deliverance from bondage was achieved.

Another resolution expresses anxiety for the suppression of slavery and the slave-trade on the East Coast of Africa, in the island of Cuba, and in Brazil. Such an expression of feeling was only natural; but we think the following will be read with peculiar feelings of gratification by large classes of the British people:—

That the heartfelt thanks of the coloured people of the United States are due to the working classes of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and especially to the operatives in the cotton factories, for their patient endurance of suffering during the period of "the cotton famine," thus "remembering those who were in bonds as those bound with them," and that we honourably mention the munificent generosity of the rest of the British people, by which the operatives were sustained during that terrible ordeal.

That many years after the cotton famine a resolution like the foregoing should be enthusiastically passed at a meeting of coloured men in the chief commercial city of the Union is assuredly a proof that they are not lacking in gratitude and do not easily forget their benefactors.

#### MR. HENRY LESLIE'S CHOIR.

The first subscription concert of the season was given on Thursday evening last, and was attended by a numerous and fashionable audience—showing an increasing interest in the musician-like rendering of the choral music, which is the feature of Mr. Leslie's concerts. The first part consisted entirely of works by Mendelssohn, introducing at the close the well-known anthem, "Hear my prayer," with solo by Miss Edith Wynne. The old favourite part song, "O hills, O vales," was so precisely given that its repetition was demanded. The well-known song, "The Garland," was carefully sung by Mr. Edward Lloyd, who with a pleasing voice combines the power of using it with good taste, and resists the temptation of overstraining the effects in the manner which leads us to suppose that some singers only "sing to the gods."

The second part introduced several new part-songs—one by Mr. Leslie, "Lullaby of Life," and another by John C. Ward (the organist of the choir) "Lives of great men." The former pleased the audience so much as to lead to its repetition. Among other part songs may be mentioned one by Blumenthal ("Gather ye rosebuds"), and another by J. F. Barnett ("Midst grove and dell"), also "How sweet the moonlight," by Arthur Sullivan—in all of which the accurate rendering by the choir left nothing to be desired, and we can imagine nothing wanting to make them popular except a second hearing. Miss Josephine Lawrence played some "Lieder" by Mendelssohn, as well as "Where the bee sucks," arranged by Benedict, and created a most favourable impression, especially in the latter. Mr. John C. Ward accompanied "Hear my prayer" on the organ with much skill. We cannot help, however, expressing a desire that some instrument worthy of the choir were in St. James's Hall instead of the incomplete instrument there at present.

The next concert, for the 24th March, is to be a sacred one, and will include Bach's motett, "I wrestle and pray," besides other works of exceptional interest, mentioned by us last week. The principal vocalists announced are Mr. Sims Reeves and Miss Katherine Poyntz.

#### THE FAMINE IN BENGAL.

(From the *Daily News*.)

The telegraphic despatch which we publish from our special correspondent, who was on Sunday at Durbungh, in Northern Tirhoot, amply justifies the concern with which the prospects of Indian scarcity have been regarded in this country. Not only has the famine come upon the people, but it is declared to be severe. Sir Richard Temple is on the spot, having made a rapid tour through the north-eastern parts of the district. A comparison of the population and the produce of the soil shows that but for the intervention of the Government half-a-million of people in that district must perish. In Tirhoot and Chumparun the population are emaciated. The prices of food are rising, and at length we are glad to be able to state the exportation of rice has ceased. The natives are not so utterly helpless and passive as is sometimes imagined: two hundred thousand of them are employed on relief works, and many of them are emigrating southwards. The Viceroy's reports state that in North Behar distress is increasing rapidly, and Sir R. Temple estimates that 180,000 tons of food will be wanted there before the middle of June. Mr. Schaleh, one of the commissioners employed on special service, reports that the famine is "certain to test the resources of the Government to the uttermost." As was sure beforehand, all the reports bear witness to the untiring zeal with which the officials of the Indian Government are applying themselves to the task of combating the effects of scarcity. The railroad or tramway, forty-six miles long, from the north bank of the Ganges to Durbungh, in Northern Tirhoot, is to be made at once, and has, in fact, been begun. Steam-ferries are plying wherever they are available for the transport of food, and the railway is carrying 2,500 tons of rice daily. The dimensions of the calamity, far exceeding the calculations made two or three months ago, are occupying the most serious attention of the financial department of the Indian Government. It is now believed at Calcutta that the various expenses entailed by the famine, including, besides purchases of food, the cost of transport, extra service, and miscellaneous necessary outlay, will not be less than 5,000,000*l.*, while it is expected that the expenditure on public works will not be much if any less.

In the prospect opened up by these very serious statements the minds of Englishmen at home naturally turn to the language of the Indian Government to learn whether their confidence in their ability to meet the urgent requirements of the crisis is still undiminished. In the first place, it is a matter of congratulation, after all that has been affirmed and predicted respecting the insufficiency of the rice purchases of the Government, to find Lord Northbrook declaring that there is no room for anxiety or misgiving on this point. The Viceroy, writing to the Duke of Argyll a month ago, said, "We have at our hand ample supplies of grain from beyond the sea to meet any demands that may come upon us from the distressed districts." Nor has this acceptable statement been in any wise modified by the telegraphic reports that have since come to hand, all of which bear witness to the abundance of rice at the disposal of the Government. There is the less need to be anxious

about this matter now, inasmuch as while the formerly uncertain element in the calculations of the Government—the time when the earliest supplies would be wanted—is now known, the presence of adequate supplies at the beginning of distress will leave the Government at liberty to supplement its arrangements by further purchases should that measure become necessary. Lord Northbrook states further that notwithstanding all that the Government has done private trade is active, especially in Behar, and that its measures are understood by the traders, and do not interfere with their activity. So far the Indian Government appears to have acted up to its responsibilities. But, as has so frequently been pointed out, the accumulation of supplies was after all the least onerous part of the duties of the Government; it is the sufficiency of the machinery of distribution respecting which most doubts have been felt in this country. We knew that the unlimited purchasing power of the Indian Government, exercised with foresight, was equal to any provision of food that might be necessary, but we could not feel equally certain that the grain would be in the places where it was wanted by the time it was wanted. And we fear that we cannot even now, after the latest official assurances from Calcutta, dismiss all apprehension on this account from our minds. Lord Northbrook can no doubt point to great exertions made by the Indian Government for securing this end. Steamers have been hired for the conveyance of grain across the Ganges, and the East Indian Railway Company has been authorised to provide additional engines and to increase its accommodation for traffic. But when we come to inquire as to the power of local transport, in the limitation of which all the difficulty lies, we get nothing but assurances that "every effort is being made to convey the supplies to the depots that have been selected," with other deprecatory statements of a similar nature. On this point we are compelled to compare Lord Northbrook's vague intimations with the more explicit reports furnished within the last fortnight from Calcutta. When we find, notwithstanding all we have heard of the excellence of local transport arrangements, that the Government is not prepared with the means of transporting its rice to the very part of the country where it was known that distress would appear soonest and in the greatest intensity, we cannot admit that it is entitled to all the credit which we should be glad to find it in a position to claim. The construction of the tramway from the northern bank of the Ganges to Durbungh, in Northern Tirhoot, is begun simultaneously with the appearance of famine in its worst form, and it will take two months to complete.

The insufficiency of the means of local transport in Bengal and the impossibility of relying on their expansion upon an emergency were not unknown to the Indian Government. Once and again, as transport was suddenly required, the Government has found, as in the Bhootan and Looshai wars, that private trade could do next to nothing to help it. The monotonous simplicity of industrial life in India and the fixed character of its productive economy leave no margin of resources such as in Western Europe are always ready to be diverted from one operation to another on the slightest temptation of profit. It might have been supposed that a knowledge of this fact would have led the Indian Government to begin the employment of native transport agencies months earlier than it did, so that supplies might have been already well on their way to those centres of population which were most difficult of access before the foreseen crisis should arise. This was substantially the advice given to the Indian Government by Sir George Campbell, but that Government was apparently afraid to make, until absolutely compelled to do so, any display of its preparations, apparently fearing lest a disclosure of the means in its hands should induce the population to throw themselves too much and too soon upon the care of their rulers. The omissions of the past two months cannot now be repaired, and we must content ourselves with the assurance that all that is possible will be done to place food within the reach of the starving population. Our special correspondent reports that as many as 20,000 carts are now employed in the transport of grain. The Indian Government, undoubtedly moved by the very decided expression of English opinion on the subject since the publication of our correspondent's first telegram from Bankipore, has relaxed the conditions on which it grants relief, and has forbidden the indiscriminating application of the labour test. We may reasonably hope that the various measures of that Government will before long enable it fully to cope with the gigantic evil which threatens so large a portion of its subjects. The people of India have unhappily an extensive acquaintance with the evils of famine; but they will admit that never were measures of relief conducted so energetically and on so large a scale as they are now by the Queen's representative, with the encouraging support of the unanimous public sentiment of England.

The *Times* has published the following from its special correspondent at Calcutta:—

Calcutta, Feb. 22.—Sir R. Temple writes in a private letter:—"Amid black districts, marching into blacker confines. In Tirhoot and Bhaugulpore it is now estimated that 280,000 are in distress. All the Patna division is needing assistance. The rain has not affected the prospects. Essentially my first duty was to estimate the number of starving people; second, the



amount of Government supply of grain that would be required; third, the means of transport; fourth, the organisation of the numerous subdivisions; fifth, the Relief Works reaching the furthest tracts. I am well pleased with the European officials and planters. The distressed of Fyzabad and Oude and Nepal are coming south. The scarcity in South Madras is becoming serious. The water supply is failing. In Travancore prices are rising. Madras is supplying grain, Tinnevely none. The Allahabad doctors have ordered Sir W. Muir, who is suffering from incessant work, six months' leave.

Calcutta, Feb. 23.—The Government narrative admits an increase of vagrancy, crime, and child desertion. Women and children are suffering severely. It is ascertained that there have been deaths from sickness caused by starvation. Sir G. Campbell doubts whether the Government can supply enough food. Three hundred and thirty-three thousand tons are wanted now, with coolies to carry 60lb. loads. The doctors are supplied. The labour test has been relaxed. The exports of rice since October have been 165,000 tons.

#### FOREIGN MISCELLANY.

The Prussian House of Lords has passed the Civil Marriage Bill by a majority of 89 to 51.

The statement that the Pope had invited the Catholic bishops to visit Rome is authoritatively contradicted.

There is great distress in Paris. The first list of subscriptions for increasing the number of soup-kitchens for the poor, as proposed by the Duchess of Magenta, amounts to 3,080*l*.

The Dean of Westminster and Lady Augusta Stanley were received on Friday by the Emperor and Empress of Germany, and were invited to dine with their Majesties.

M. John Lemoine, in the *Débat*, urges that the French ship *Orénoque* should be withdrawn from Civita Vecchia, as being no longer necessary for the safety of the Pope.

The question of the Civil List of Napoleon III., about which so much has been said, seems likely to end in a compromise. A certain sum, probably about 60,000*l*., will be given for the disputed collections.

A bill has been laid before the French Assembly to authorise a new scheme of fortification which will include both Paris and Versailles. A vote of seven million francs is demanded for the immediate commencement of operations.

The Emperor of Austria arrived at Moscow on Monday evening, and was received with great ceremony. The railway-station was gaily decorated, and His Majesty was met by the authorities of the town. The city was decorated with flags, and was to be illuminated in the evening.

Sir Robert Officer, the chairman of the Salmon Commissioners of Tasmania, reports that a grilse—a real *Salmo salar*—has at length been caught near Hobart Town. The Government paid to the person who caught it the reward of 30*l*. offered for the first salmon caught.

PRINCE NAPOLEON and the Princess Clotilde will, it is expected, leave Paris on the 14th of March, in order to be present at the *Mé* at Chislehurst, when the Prince Imperial attains his majority.

THE PAPACY IN TURKEY.—It is telegraphed from Constantinople that the long-pending dispute between the Armenian Catholics in Turkey, divided into Hassounites and anti-Hassounites, has been terminated by an Imperial decree. The Hassounites—namely, the Papal party—will be recognised as a separate community, and will be represented at the Porte by a lay head.

DEFEAT OF THE SLAVE-TRADERS IN UPPER EGYPT.—A heavy blow has been inflicted on the slave-traders in Upper Egypt. On the 28th of last month a battle was fought between the slave-trading Darfoorians and the Egyptian troops, in which the latter were victorious, and the Darfoorians lost four cannons, a quantity of arms, and several standards. Two hundred Egyptians were killed and wounded. The Khedive is determined to stamp out the system of slave-hunting and slave-trading that has been so long carried on in the Darfoor country, and for this purpose his troops will enter the country in force.

THE "PRAYING CAMPAIGN" IN OHIO.—The *New York Tribune* of the 10th inst. says:—"The temperance crusade in Ohio is gaining in intensity and force. The women who have been sweeping the whisky-shops of the smaller towns with their besoms of destruction are turning their attention to the more populous centres. The cities, it is thought, will try the faith and nerve of these ardent apostles of the new dispensation. But their success, so far, has been unexampled. No such widespread and fervent revival of religion and temperance as this has been witnessed of late in any part of the United States. The cause commands the sympathy of vast multitudes; if the effects of the crusade are permanent it may well take its place among the notable reforms of modern times." This extraordinary system of disseminating temperance principles has been spreading throughout Southern Ohio until it has succeeded in closing up nearly every liquor-shop in Franklin, Waynesville, London, McArthur, New Vienna, New Leverington, Hillsborough, Greenfield, New Holland, Washington, Gallipolis, Moscow, Leesburg, Cambridge, Blandchester, and a number of other towns. It is said that in this section of Ohio, where the agitation is at fever heat, the liquor traffic has decreased two-thirds.

THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT AND THE BONAPARTISTS.—The French Minister of the Interior has addressed a circular to the Prefects, relative to a

circular issued by the partisans of the Empire, inviting persons to go to England to do homage to the Prince Imperial on his coming of age. The Duc de Broglie points out that the choice of the day on which the prince enters his nineteenth year, in accordance with the Imperial Constitution, is an indirect acknowledgment of his right to reign over France in virtue of that Constitution, and says the Government cannot allow any manifestation which might derogate from the respect due to the decrees of the National Assembly. If, in the efforts made to increase the number of visitors to England, they discovered the least attempt to question the validity of the sovereign decisions of the Assembly, they will instantly inform him of the same, in order that he may immediately repress the offence. Marshal MacMahon had promised France repose, and the Government would act so that he may be able to keep his word.

THE ALSATIAN DEPUTIES IN THE GERMAN PARLIAMENT.—There was a scene during Wednesday's sitting of the Reichstag. In an impassioned harangue which he delivered in excellent German, Herr Teutsch, the spokesman of the party, protested against the annexation of the Rhine provinces, and amidst the laughter of the deputies appealed to Napoleon the Third's practice of qualifying annexation by a *plebiscite*. After him the Bishop of Strasburg spoke with moderation and effect on behalf of the motion, which was then put to the vote. Only Professor Ewald stood up for it with the Alsatians. Herr Teutsch then rose, and in a solemn tone exclaimed, "Our trust must be in God and in the voice of Europe." The scene ended by the Alsatians marching out of the house in a body. Next day M. Pougnet, one of the Alsatian deputies, protested against the adoption of the minutes of the previous day's proceedings, because of the declaration of Bishop Raess, that he, and his fellow Catholics, had no idea of calling in question the stipulations of the Treaty of Frankfurt. M. Pougnet stated that the Bishop of Strasburg, in saying so, had only spoken for himself, and had no authority to speak for his co-religionists. The Catholics in Alsace-Lorraine have published an energetic protest against the acceptance of the Treaty of Frankfurt made in their name by Bishop Raess in the German Reichstag. They state that the bishop was elected for Strasburg in order to protest against the annexation, and invite him to resign his post of deputy.

#### Epitome of News.

The Queen, Prince Arthur (who has just returned from Russia), and Princess Beatrice attended Divine service on Sunday in the private chapel at Windsor. The Rev. Frederic W. Farrar, D.D., preached the sermon.

The *Morning Post* believes that after the arrival of the Duke of Edinburgh and his imperial bride at Windsor a grand banquet will be given in St. George's Hall, and that on a day to be appointed the Queen, with their royal highnesses, will enter London, Her Majesty thus, as it were, presenting her new daughter to her people.

Her Majesty will, it is expected, pay a visit to London during the present week.

The Prince of Wales will hold a *levee* at St. James's Palace, on behalf of Her Majesty, on Wednesday, March 11 next, at two o'clock.

A splendid wedding gift, of the value of 2,000 guineas, will be presented to Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Edinburgh, on the part of the officers of the Royal Navy and Royal Marines, on her arrival in London. It takes the form of a dessert service of gold plate.

It is understood that on his intended visit to England during the approaching summer, the Emperor of Russia will probably visit Hull and Liverpool, and it is not unlikely that the Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh may be induced to accompany him.

At the council held at Windsor on Saturday, the Queen conferred the honour of knighthood on Mr. Charles Reed, M.P., chairman of the London School Board; and on Mr. Charles Wood, the deputy-chairman of the Great Western Railway, who for the last fifteen years has been a Commissioner of Emigration.

Mr. Frederick William Burton is to succeed Sir William Boxall, who recently resigned, in the office of director of the National Gallery.

Mrs. Nassau Senior, who was last year temporarily appointed by Mr. Stansfeld to report upon the state of education and the results of the industrial training in certain pauper girls' schools, has just been permanently placed on the staff of inspectors of the Local Government Board.

Mr. Shirley Brooks, whose illness has been already reported, died on Monday, in his sixtieth year. The deceased had edited *Punch* since 1870, when he succeeded Mr. Mark Lemon. He at one time held an important position on the staff of the *Morning Chronicle*, and was the author of several novels.

Mr. J. S. Wright, the chairman of the Birmingham Liberal Association, has been placed on the commission of the peace for that borough.

The progress made in removing the ruins of the Pantheon is still trifling, so far as the recovery of any valuables is concerned. The special search for Sir Richard Wallace's goods has been discontinued, it being evident that in the part of the ruins where it was being made nothing more of his

was likely to be found. Sir Richard's loss has, it is stated, been considerably over-estimated. Among other sufferers by the fire is the Earl of Limerick, who, like his relative, Lord Monteagle, had a large and valuable library upon the premises. A silver tea-service was taken uninjured from the ruins on Saturday. The value of the property destroyed is estimated at 3,000,000*l*., but of this sum the insurance companies only represent 150,000*l*.

A crowded meeting was held on Friday last in the Albert Hall, Leeds, in support of the measure for removing the electoral disabilities of women-householders and ratepayers. Lord Houghton occupied the chair. The large hall was filled. The meeting was addressed by Miss Lucy Wilson, Miss Sturge, Mrs. Lucas (sister to the Right Hon. John Bright), Mr. Joseph Lupton, Miss Rhoda Garrett, and Mrs. Buckton. Resolutions in support of the measure were passed unanimously.

A gentleman was killed at one of the Dublin hotels on Thursday by falling over the balustrade while leaning over to call a servant.

The Rev. Thomas Harding, Wesleyan minister, Whitehaven, father of Mr. Thomas Oliver Harding, the senior wrangler of last year, while preaching yesterday morning, suddenly fell down in the pulpit in an apoplectic fit. Two of the congregation helped him downstairs, but he died in a few minutes, before medical assistance could be obtained. The painful event has caused much regret in the town.

Mr. T. F. Dillon Croker was attacked in the Fulham-road about midnight on Friday by two men, who threw him into the road, and robbed him of his watch, chain, and gold locket set with diamonds. They then ran away in the direction of Kensington. Mr. Croker, though much bruised and partially stunned, pursued them, but was unable to overtake them.

In a speech at Burnley on Thursday evening, the Bishop of Manchester said that at the risk of being hissed he would avow that he leaned towards Liberalism in politics. He was hissed.

On Saturday nine miners were summoned before the Durham county magistrates, charged with riotous conduct on the day of the South Durham election. Five of them were committed for trial at the assizes, but having been accepted.

Mr. Sims Reeves, who was announced to be present at Kuhe's musical festival at Brighton on Friday evening, has written a letter to Mr. Kuhe, dated from Dover, in which he says:—"Instead of getting better, I am rather worse. The rheumatism is giving me much pain, and keeps me pinned down to my couch. I am terribly grieved at this, as I looked forward with great pleasure to assist you at your festival, but, alas! it is out of my power."

The *Civil Service Review* hears rumours of an intention on the part of the shareholders of the Civil Service Supply Association to apply for an injunction in Chancery to restrain the carrying out of the decision of the recent ballot. The applicants object to the proposal of assigning future profits to the shareholders, and desire in consequence to withdraw from the society. But they feel themselves unable to do so without receiving their share of the profits already accumulated, and in order that they may obtain this they move for an order to wind up the society.

The Tichborne trial is still proceeding; so also is the charge of the Lord Chief Justice, who may perhaps conclude this week. The trial has lasted 185 days, and the summing-up seventeen.

Professor Huxley will visit Aberdeen as Lord Rector on Wednesday next. A meeting of the University court is to be held on Thursday, when the Lord Rector's proposed alteration of the medical curriculum will be discussed. On Friday Professor Huxley will deliver his rectorial address, and on the same evening will be entertained to dinner by the senatus. On Monday evening the students will entertain him and the professorial body to supper.

In a case which came before the Master of the Rolls on Monday, Mr. Bagshawe, Q.C., having spoken of one of his witnesses, who was a licensed victualler, as "this gentleman," his honour asked the learned counsel, "Since when has it become the fashion to designate a publican as a 'gentleman'?" Since the last general election, I suppose.

The committee of the National Training School for Cookery have appointed Lady Barker to be lady superintendent of the school, which is expected to commence the preliminary work of training "instructors in cookery" at the beginning of March.

There was a considerable arrival at the Coal Exchange on Monday, and a reduction of 6*d*. per ton was submitted to. The merchants' prices for best Wallsend are now 33*s*.

The international football match between England and Scotland was played yesterday afternoon at the Kennington Oval, and was won by the English team.

In Baker-street, London, on Saturday morning, a man deliberately threw himself beneath the ponderous wheel of a steam rolling-machine, which was at the time in motion. He was crushed to death before the engine could be stopped.

The assistant secretary to the Board of Trade has drawn up a report on the answers given by the railway companies to Mr. Chichester Fortescue's circular letter. It replies on some of the points raised by the railway companies, and congratulates the public on the increasing adoption by railway companies of mechanical contrivances to obviate the dangers caused by the occasional carelessness of even the best railway-servants.



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# The Nonconformist.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1874.

## SUMMARY.

THE Disraeli Cabinet is complete, and its twelve members—for the new Premier has returned to a restricted number of responsible advisers of the Crown—received their seals of office from the Queen on Friday last, after the colleagues of Mr. Gladstone had formally resigned theirs. The Ministry is being constructed with the care which is bestowed upon an apparatus that is intended to last for some time. The representatives of the great expending departments will be in the Commons; and Mr. Hardy at the War Office, if not Mr. Ward Hunt at the Admiralty, will probably not be forgetful of the economical policy pursued by

their predecessors in these offices. Lord Derby, Lord Salisbury, Lord Carnarvon, and Sir Stafford Northcote have accepted the positions in the new Administration which the public voice had assigned to them, and their established reputation will give weight to the Cabinet. Mr. Cross, the Home Secretary, though destitute of office experience, is regarded as well-fitted for the sphere which Mr. Disraeli's sagacity has called upon him to fill. Many of the subordinate offices will yet have to be filled up.

The new House of Commons, in which the Conservatives will command a compact majority of about fifty, will meet on the 5th of March, and, as many re-elections will be necessary, will hardly commence the real business of the session before the 14th. Meanwhile, the late Speaker is to be re-elected without demur, so that, during the absence of the principal Ministers, the newly-elected members of the House of Commons can be leisurely sworn in. Though it will be a short session, Mr. Disraeli's Cabinet will find some work to do, if the papers are to be believed. Finance will necessarily occupy a prominent position, and Sir Stafford Northcote's budget will be expected with interest. Comprehensive measures of law reform under Lord Chancellor Cairns's auspices, an amendment of the Licensing Act, a readjustment of local taxation, and even some proposals bearing on the educational problem, are expected to form part of Mr. Disraeli's programme for the present year. But during a gay season, when there will be unusual Court festivities in connection with the arrival of the Duke of Edinburgh and his Russian bride, and a visit from the Czar himself, there is not likely to be a superfluity of activity in political life. The new Government will not be sorry to give effect to the demand of the constituencies for an abatement of reforming zeal.

Apparently Mr. Disraeli will not—this session at all events—have much to fear from his great rival. It is now understood that Mr. Gladstone will take a lengthened continental tour to recruit his exhausted health, and that during his absence the Marquis of Hartington, Mr. Forster, and Mr. Goschen will form a kind of triumvirate to lead the disheartened Liberal Opposition. On this subject, and many interesting features of the recent elections, a somewhat copious correspondence will be found elsewhere.

Germany has furnished several items of unusual interest during the past week. The first of these is a letter from the Emperor William to Earl Russell, thanking him for the part he took in the London meeting expressive of sympathy with German Protestantism, which is remarkable chiefly for its unflinching spirit. Speaking of the conflict with Ultramontanism in Prussia, His Majesty says:—"I accept the battle thus imposed upon me in fulfilment of my kingly duties and in firm reliance on God, to whose help we look for victory, but also in the spirit of regard for the creed of others and of evangelical forbearance which has been stamped by my forefathers on the laws and administration of my State." The Emperor was assured that in the endeavour to uphold liberty of conscience he would not be abandoned by the English people, to whom the people of Germany and his royal house are bound by the remembrance of many an honourable struggle maintained in common since the days of William of Orange. There has been a debate in the German Parliament, in which Count Moltke has pleaded hard for the settlement of the military establishment on a fixed basis for a dozen years or so, on the ground that the recent territorial conquests will have to be defended for fifty years to come—truly a very high price to be paid for Alsace and Lorraine! The deputies from those provinces have put in an appearance in the Reichstag, and have made a formal protest against being handed over to an alien Power without their consent. But the effect of their protest was spoiled by the absence of unanimity. While one of the bishops accepted the Treaty of Frankfurt as binding, his Roman Catholic colleagues have publicly expressed their dissent from his views, and many of the offended deputies have returned home in despair.

For one of the vacancies which has to be filled in the French National Assembly, the veteran, M. Ledru-Rollin, "the father of universal suffrage," has come forward as a candidate; an event which is spoken of by the *Journal des D  bats* as equally disastrous to the Republican cause with the memorable appearance of M. Barodet before the Parisian electors. The Government, disturbed by the proposed demonstration at Chislehurst on the attainment of his majority by the Prince Imperial, have issued a warning circular on the subject, with which the Bonapartists, who have no objection

to be made much of, are not at all dissatisfied. Their cause, though apparently desperate a year ago, seems to be growing fast.

The news given elsewhere leaves no doubt, we fear, of the death of Dr. Livingstone, as previously announced; and the telegrams from India are growing more and more sombre. "The distress is gradually intensifying," is the information given in this morning's *Daily News* from Durbungah, where the relief works are said to have been "looted." There are two serious difficulties in the famine-stricken districts—the difficulty of the transport of food to the remote localities, and the dearth of competent persons to superintend the relief centres and the public works.

An unauthenticated telegram announcing the entry of Sir Garnet Wolseley into Coomassie at the head of the English troops is probably only the anticipation of the actual fact. The terms which General Wolseley has offered are that the King of Ashantee shall set free all his prisoners; that he shall pay a war indemnity; and that peace shall be signed at Coomassie in the presence of an English regiment. The tenour of the correspondence from the front is to the effect that the King was unable to offer any resistance.

The unexpected news of the death of Mr. Binney, who seemed a fortnight ago to be recovering from his severe illness, will be everywhere known, and our readers will greatly regret with us the loss of a minister and a man who has so long been a power in the world for good, and an embodiment of some of the noblest characteristics of the Nonconformist divine, and whose position in the religious world was quite unique. Mr. Binney has been taken from us too sudden to admit of any mature estimate of his character and career being offered in our present number. We have elsewhere hastily thrown into a sketch some of the prominent incidents of a life which was not very eventful, and the usefulness of which is not to be measured by ordinary standards. The funeral will, we understand, take place at Abney Park Cemetery on Monday next.

## THE NEW ADMINISTRATION.

THE transference of Ministerial authority from Liberal to Conservative hands is now complete. The formalities customarily observant on the outgoing of one Cabinet and the incoming of another have been duly gone through. Mr. Disraeli is now in place, and, for the first time, in power. He has selected and allocated the members of that smaller body of men by whose counsel the policy and action of the Government over which he presides will be suggested, moulded, and carried into effect. He will command in the House of Commons a compact and disciplined majority. He is perfectly *en rapport* with the House of Lords. It may be fairly taken for granted, therefore, that any programme sanctioned by his Cabinet may, with such modifications as he may see fit to concede to his opponents, be embodied in legislative enactments. Theoretically, and perhaps actually, he represents the ascendant mood of the country. The conduct of public affairs is now under his control, and if the curiosity of society were to take shape in a single question, that question would probably be, "What will he do with it?"

There is no sufficient reason on the surface to lead to the supposition that the present Administration will be shorter than that which has just been removed. It cannot be denied, indeed, that the Cabinet includes possibilities of discord, the outbreak of which, sooner or later, may seem to be inevitable. There is very little in common between Mr. Disraeli and the Marquis of Salisbury, and there are wide differences between the Premier and his Foreign Secretary, if these Ministers may be judged by their public utterances. We think, however, that no great stress is to be laid on these facts. The Earl of Derby is not likely to be coerced into what goes by the name of a "spirited foreign policy," and, perhaps, one of the last men likely to coerce him in that direction is the present First Lord of the Treasury. Mr. Disraeli as a critic, and Mr. Disraeli as a responsible statesman, must not be confounded the one with the other. Nor will Lord Salisbury, in the government of India, be likely to clash with the opinions of his political chief. There is no great home question calling for experimental manipulation—for sometime to come at least. We fail to discover in the data supplied by the information yet before the public, any weight of evidence that the official supremacy of Conservatism is likely to be short. Its length of days will mainly depend upon the prudence of its behaviour. There is good work which it may do if it will only be content with doing it. There are also several



short byways to political destruction which, however, experience will surely have taught the present Premier to avoid.

The political and intellectual ability of Mr. Disraeli's Cabinet will not very greatly suffer in comparison with that to which it has succeeded. It is not for lack of brains that it is likely to fail. Nor, in the present instance, will the genius of its chief be suffered to cast all his colleagues into the shade. Mr. Disraeli himself can hardly be reckoned a great statesman. He is a keen and brilliant critic. He better knows how to deal with phrases than with facts. He but faintly perceives, and but vaguely interprets, the spirit of the age in which he lives. He is able as a Parliamentary tactician; clever and successful as a party leader. What has been frequently said in disparagement of him is true enough, always has been true, and was never perhaps more true than at the present moment, "He has no policy." His career has left it doubtful whether he has any political convictions. He plies his great abilities much as an advocate does at the bar—not much concerned about the character of the case which he takes in hand, but intent, for the sake of his professional reputation, upon its success. In some degree, this lack of earnestness will serve him on the present occasion. As he occupies a safe position, and need concede nothing to mere sectional importunities, he will probably think twice before committing himself to any obviously selfish or inequitable proposals in favour of the country party. That he will be bound to do something by way of pleasing his supporters he will, no doubt, feel. That he will push to a practical issue many of their unwise suggestions need not, we imagine, be apprehended. The prize which he most covets is within his firm grasp, and there is nothing in his nature, political, or moral, or religious, which presents to him any strong temptation to risk the tenure of it by playing with it. We shall be considerably surprised if, for a year or two at any rate, the tenor of his Administration be not characterised by sobriety and moderation.

The next question that forces itself upon most men's minds relates to the future of Her Majesty's Opposition. What is likely to become of it? No one, we suppose, will have failed to perceive, or will hesitate to acknowledge, that it has reached a lamentable stage of disintegration. For the present it is little better than a crowd of differing politicians. This is not, however, the first time, even of late years, in which the phenomenon has been exhibited; nor is it by any means unnatural that it should be so. It is no purpose of ours to distribute either praise or censure, or to assign the proximate causes of the disruption which has taken place. For some time to come it must be assumed as probable that every man will do as seemeth good in his own eyes. There will be no incontestable authority, and consequently no discipline. Mr. Gladstone will be very likely indisposed to do more than nominally discharge the responsibilities of leader of the Opposition. Mr. Forster, we apprehend, will not very successfully supplement his chief's slackness of service in that regard. Mr. Cardwell and Mr. Chichester Fortescue have gone up to the Lords. The Liberals, besides being in a minority, are divided into factions, and may be described as practically without leaders. This state of things, however, can hardly be expected to last much beyond the coming session. Whether their helplessness will provoke an unreasonable aggression it is impossible to say. The prospect before them is not flattering, and it is but small consolation to reflect that for a long time past it has been clearly foreseen. Such penalties as the state of affairs entails upon the party must be patiently borne. Within the next few months it may be expected that the principle, which must constitute the new life of the Liberal party, will become developed, and in proportion to its vivifying energy will be the likelihood of its early success. Leaders will come when the fitting occasion for them shall have arisen.

#### THE NEW EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

THE advent of a Conservative Government has of course brought about a change in the Education Department. The Duke of Richmond succeeds Lord Aberdeen, who had had no time to make his influence felt in the office at Whitehall, as President of the Council. His grace is a Tory, faithful to the traditions of his party, but he seems to have been installed in his present office because he could not well be trusted to preside over one of the great spending departments. His zeal for education has not, so far as we are aware, been very prominent; and after having given special attention to the

prerogatives of the House of Lords, to the grievances of Guardsmen not satisfied with the liberal compensation they have received for the abolition of purchase, and to the claims of the turf, we cannot imagine that he will enter *con amore* into the question of the training of pauper children. It seems an odd chance that hands over the interests of education to a peer with such proclivities. But party exigencies required that Mr. Disraeli should find a dignified position for the Duke of Richmond as one of the "governing families" of the realm, and we may presume that his grace will be as zealous—he could hardly be more so—in upholding the claims of denominational schools as Lord de Grey and Ripon, who for several years occupied the position of President of the Council.

The real Education Minister—the Vice-President of the Committee of Council, who succeeds Mr. Forster—will be Viscount Sandon, one of the members for Liverpool. Perhaps if Sir John Pakington had retained his seat for Droitwich, he might have been offered this important post, and, like the senior member for Bradford, have been made in that capacity a member of the Cabinet. In that case, as much liberality in the working of the department would probably have been exercised as was consistent with Conservative traditions; for we may perhaps assume that the right hon. baronet's zeal for education is superior to his Church prejudices. But the new Prime Minister has passed over Mr. W. H. Smith, to whom report assigned the office—or rather has employed him elsewhere—and fixed upon Lord Sandon. His lordship is, we believe, an Evangelical Churchman, extremely zealous on behalf of religious education, on religious grounds, and a firm but temperate upholder of "voluntary" schools. His experience as a former member of the London School Board may be of service to him in his new sphere, and he will probably discountenance any serious innovations on the policy of his predecessor. He will have the same permanent staff for carrying out the Act of 1870 as Mr. Forster. So far as we know, those officials, with the sanction of their superiors, invariably interpreted the Act in a sense favourable to denominational interests. It would be absurd to suppose that, under a Tory Government, they would depart from these traditions; it is difficult to see how it could be worked more zealously in that direction without violating the spirit of the Act, the provisions of which are too explicit to be easily set at naught. We do not think there is any reason to suppose that Lord Sandon will be a less liberal administrator than Mr. Forster, nor that the Prime Minister will be anxious that his subordinate should strain a statute under which the vested interests of Church schools are most tenderly guarded. We may be wrong, but our decided conviction is that, in respect to the working of the Act, the cause of national education will lose nothing by the change of Government.

Mr. Disraeli, it is true, has oracularly proclaimed the 25th clause to be the symbol of the controversy "whether national education shall be furnished on the consecrated basis of religion, or whether it shall be purely secular education." The right hon. gentleman is adroit in the use of sonorous phrases that have no distinctive meaning. He is not, we dare say, ignorant of the fact that in the great majority of board schools unsectarian religious education is given irrespective of that clause; that his sacred "symbol" might be legally voted down by every school board in the kingdom; nor that under the Act purely secular schools may be established, as at Birmingham. At present these local boards may or may not agree to pay the fees of indigent children in denominational schools out of the rates, and in fact the payment of these fees is now almost entirely made by virtue of the supplementary Act of last session through boards of guardians. Practically the 25th clause is hardly operative except in Manchester and Salford, where Liberal apathy and Tory reaction have allowed the local school boards to draw to a large extent on the rates with a view to fill the Church schools, and prevent the building of new ones. But we have not heard that this exceptional action has received any rebuke from the Education Department. It is just possible that Lord Sandon may do something to embarrass the Birmingham School Board in their resolution to separate secular and religious education—for the minority there challenge the legality of the decision to allow the use of board schools at a fixed rental for the purposes of the Religious Education Society of that town.

The endowed schools are not within the jurisdiction of the Education Department. The powers of the present commissioners, as arranged last session, expire this year, and it will be necessary either to prolong them or to

transfer the work of the board to Lord Sandon and his staff. Whichever plan the new Government propose to Parliament, they will undoubtedly be able to carry. As will be remembered, the bill of last session founded on the report of the Select Committee of the Commons tied up the hands of the commissioners, and should they be allowed to continue their functions, it is absurd to suppose that a Cabinet of which Lord Salisbury is a potential member, would allow any such liberal schemes to be adopted as the commissioners have heretofore submitted for the approval of the Government and legislature. We may therefore assume that the Endowed Schools Acts will become under a Tory régime almost a dead letter.

It seems probable, however, that the Education Acts will be in the main faithfully carried out by Mr. Disraeli's Ministry. Of course, all attempts to amend them will be summarily voted down, nor can we suppose that the Cowper-Temple clause, though inimical to the clergy, will be tampered with. The Premier has judiciously shifted the ground on which the 25th clause is sustained. If he had based it on the much vaunted right of parents to choose the school in which their children should be educated, he would have laid himself open to the retort that that right in thousands of parishes where there is only a Church school in existence, is a sheer mockery. The right of choice is purely a geographical right. Has Mr. Forster, a Liberal, and perhaps an aspirant to the leadership of Liberals, ever indicated a disposition to redress *this* grievance? Not that we are aware of; and it is, we imagine, one of the causes of the bitterness of feeling towards him. There is not so much as a thought bestowed upon, or a word of sympathy spoken, for the rural Dissenter. It is all concentrated upon that interesting urban indigent child who is supposed to have an insatiable desire to choose not any school, but the denominational school. The whole genius of our statesmen as regards education is absorbed in *that*, and the Dissenting villager is left to the tender mercies of parson and squire. And now we have just found the parson and the squire working might and main to evict every Parliamentary candidate who sympathises with Mr. Gladstone and Mr. Forster!

But though the Education Act for 1870 may not be strained by the new Government for the advantage of their faithful adherents in the rural parishes, it is possible the Education Code may be tampered with for the behoof of denominational schools. The code is the work of the Department, and the temptation to modify it in the interests of such schools will be great. This is the direction in which vigilance will be necessary.

#### M. RENAN ON THE POPE VERSUS BISMARCK.

M. RENAN, notwithstanding the popularity of his brilliant writings on Biblical questions, is not usually regarded as a very profound or judicious critic. But it is impossible to deny to him a certain power of imaginative sympathy, which makes his observations on contemporary religious phenomena both interesting and suggestive. We do not wonder therefore that an article from his pen in the *Revue des Deux Mondes* on the present critical relations of the Papacy to the great political powers of the continent, and especially to Germany, should have attracted a considerable amount of attention. In the course of this essay M. Renan describes the existing dead-lock as resulting from the momentary equipoise of two antagonistic, irreconcilable, and perhaps equally dangerous forces, the arrogant supremacy of the Pope, and the equally unreasonable tyranny of the State over the Church. These are the forces which Dr. Manning has designated by the more concise and convenient names of Ultramontanism and Caesarism. M. Renan goes on to distinguish and discuss the various

\* Since writing the above, we have seen an article in yesterday's *Standard* which does not bear out the anticipations we have expressed. That Conservative organ, in referring to the questions which might be dealt with during the ensuing broken session, says:—"It is not to be supposed that any legislation on the 25th clause coming from the present Ministry could win the favour of the Secularists and Nonconformists. It is questionable, however, whether the machinery for giving effect to the clause is altogether satisfactory as it stands. It is time to consider whether the exercise of the compulsory powers and the payment of fees in the school chosen by the parent should not be made equally obligatory upon the boards." It is not easy to suppose that these views are officially inspired, because the writer seems to be hardly aware of the magnitude of the suggestion he makes. To oblige school boards without discretion to pay the fees of all children whom they compel to go to school, is too monstrous a proposal to be seriously entertained. For the present, therefore, we must decline to accept the *Standard* as an authority on the point.



conditions under which the great Papal aggression is met in France and Italy on the one hand, and in Germany on the other. His view seems to be that the two former countries confront the ecclesiastical bombardment with a sort of feather-bed of religious ignorance and indifference, which can absorb any amount of bulls, dogmas, and decrees, without the slightest molecular disturbance or rearrangement being produced by the shock. In Germany, on the contrary, the greater intellectual activity devoted to the discussion of theological subjects is represented as producing a more highly organised and susceptible condition of the national mind in its ecclesiastical aspect; a condition of delicate equilibrium easily destroyed by the thunders of the Vatican. The ingenious writer proceeds to suggest the sort of legislation by which German statesmen might most advantageously have met the new assumptions of the Pope. And with this he contrasts the clumsy policy which has sought to meet arrogance by tyranny, unreason by arbitrary force. He notes the fact, to which we think he gives more than its just significance as a mark of superior religious freedom in his own country, that while in France civil registration of births and civil contracts of marriage are enforced by law, in Germany, on the other hand, "for all the more important acts of civil life a man is dependent on the clergy." "An individual who should secede from his Church without going over to another Church could not marry—could not have the birth of his children registered." We may admit that in this respect the laws of France are better than those of her victorious rival. But it ill becomes a Frenchman to boast of religious liberty when no Free Church congregation can meet together to worship God without a licence, often difficult and sometimes impossible to obtain, from State officials. Any one who has read Mr. Coquerel's reasons for the refusal of the Rationalists in the Protestant Church to secede and to form a voluntary church of their own, will allow that whatever else may be counted among the glories of France, she can hardly claim to have solved the question of the relations of Church and State.

However, let us note how M. Renan in the interest of Germany would have met the Papal aggression. "There was but one course to follow," he says, "first, to secularise the registration of births, marriages, and deaths, and provide that excommunication should entail no civil disabilities; secondly, to secularise public instruction; thirdly, to grant to the new church entire freedom of worship, and as its members all proceeded from the Catholic Church, to deduct from the endowments of this latter, and transfer to the Old Catholics, a sum proportionate to the number of those who embraced the new faith." The last suggestion is truly French. What a childlike, if not childish, confidence it reveals in bureaucratic readjustments to meet the changeable needs of a fickle time! It is amusing to conceive of an attempt made to apply such a principle of concurrent endowment to our own delightfully sectarian land. Only imagine a claim on behalf of the innumerable seceders from that Anglo-Catholic Church, which is the mother of us all, to a share of the maternal inheritance proportionate to their number. We commend this method of concurrent endowment to the consideration of those Broad Church ecclesiastics who think that expedient might save the Establishment. We wonder whether a religious census would appear to Churchmen so supremely desirable as it does now if it were the preliminary step to such an operation. But M. Renan condemns strongly the course taken by the Prussian Government in passing the *Palck Laws*. The attempt in matters of religion to overcome conscientious resistance by brute force must, he predicts, issue in ignominious failure. The State may turn out recalcitrant priests and substitute "Old Catholics" in their place, but it cannot confer on these latter the odour of sanctity which to the superstitious mob is inseparable from the Pope's benediction, and at all events utterly dispelled by his curse. "It is evident that in matters of religion the Prussian statesmen have not the same acumen, the same sound judgment, as in matters diplomatic and military. The Church is a woman, and should be treated as such; to take her roughly by the arm, and give her a shaking, is not the way to bring her to terms." In this last sentiment we think M. Renan is perfectly right. Whether the Church should be regarded as a woman or an angel, we shall not attempt to decide. But wherever an institution exists, rooted in the conscientious convictions of multitudes, who believe it to offer means of grace securing their eternal salvation, however wrong we may think it to be, and however anxious we may be to reform it, the brute violence of Cæsarism will never serve

our purpose. For as was nobly said by a Christian writer who lived before the age of State Churches, in such matters "force is no part of the ways of God." Corrupt and debased though such an institution may be, it yet has an element of divinity in its appeal to the spiritual nature of man, and possesses prerogatives which raise it above the power of this world's artillery.

"We do it wrong, being so majestic,  
To offer it the show of violence;  
For it is, as the air, invulnerable,  
And our vain blows malicious mockery."

We fear also M. Renan is right in his conclusion that "the situation is without an issue. The bishops cannot yield; and will not yield. And the conquerors are not generally of a yielding mood. The frank adoption of the American system of the separation of the Church and State would settle everything; but such a solution is not congenial to the Prussian mind."

The italics are our own; and we shall conclude with a single reflection suggested by the survey leading to the opinion thus emphasised. According to our author the alliance of Church and State exists in France and Germany under very different conditions. In France "the intense ignorance of laymen renders everything possible." In Germany, on the other hand, the prevalence and thoroughness of secular education, to a large extent in lay hands, leads to general and intelligent thought on religious matters. It is found that a State-Church is equally unsuited to either condition of things. Amongst a thoughtless and indifferent population it does nothing to stir reflection or excite conviction. Amongst a people better taught it sows the seeds of discord and strife. In France "the masses remain utterly indifferent to a dogma more or less; they trouble themselves very little about such trifles." "When a man secedes from the established faith, he takes unreservedly to free thinking." In Germany, where people want to "part and prove," the attempt to enforce by law one mode of religion rather than another tends to anarchy. Now in England we may be said to live under both sets of conditions. There is a vast amount of popular ignorance; and periodical "missions" only serve to reveal the indifference of the million to religious observances. On the other hand, amongst the middle and upper classes, there is a considerable activity of thought, engendered, we venture to think, by the innovations of Nonconformity and the controversies it has stirred. What is the operation of the State-Church on our population in these diverse conditions? Does not our experience of elementary education show that the masses are entirely careless as to what doctrines are taught to their children? All practical school managers know, though they do not always say so, that it is not the character of the religious instruction, but the amount of the fee, which determines the choice of the parent. Unitarianism at twopence is preferred before Methodism at threepence. And Romanism at a penny, as has been proved by indubitable instances, is considered preferable to either. As in France, so here, the masses are absolutely "indifferent to a dogma more or less." This is sometimes supposed to show that the "religious difficulty" is a myth. To our mind it shows something very different and somewhat melancholy. On the other hand, the middle and upper classes are kept in a state of perpetual squabble, precisely because they do care about religious observances. Here too we think that "the frank adoption of the American system would settle" a good deal, if not "everything." But such a solution is not congenial to the Conservative mind, which for a season reigns paramount.

The Hospital Sunday collection at Liverpool, together with the amount collected in the Saturday boxes, amounted to 11,142/.

We are informed that in the recent competition for one of the Hoddie exhibitions for the encouragement of the study of Greek, Mr. J. R. Veinham Marchant, scholar of Wadham College, son of the Rev. J. Marchant, Kennington, and Mr. H. A. Wilson, son of the Bishop of Glasgow, were bracketed as equal. The exhibition is of the annual value of 50/., and is tenable for four years on condition of residence, and of a terminal examination by the Regius Professor of Greek.

The goods for the forthcoming International Exhibition are being delivered at South Kensington. The Exhibition will be the fourth of the series of ten promoted by the Royal Commissioners of the first Exhibition of 1851 as trustees of the funds arising out of its profits. Several new features will be introduced this year, including heating and sanitary apparatuses, pillow-lace manufacture, leather-work, bookbinding, mechanical and civil engineering, &c., &c. But first on the list of new classes is mentioned the exhibition of foreign and colonial wines. The brick cellars of the Albert Hall are to be utilised for this purpose, and a charge of sixpence will be made for admission to the vaults.

## DEATH OF THE REV. THOMAS BINNEY.

We greatly regret to announce the death of this eminent minister of the Congregational body, which took place yesterday, Feb. 24, at two o'clock in the morning, at his residence, Upper Clapton. Mr. Binney, as our readers are aware, had been ill for many weeks past, and great apprehensions were felt about him. After the improvement which took place in his health some three weeks since his friends entertained hopes of his recovery; but about a week ago unfavourable symptoms manifested themselves, and he suffered much. On Sunday last he was relieved from pain, but gradually sank till yesterday morning, when he died. He would have been seventy-six years of age had he lived till April.

A noble nature has returned to the God who gave it. Yet a long life had to be lived ere its nobility was fully recognised. Those who identify Nonconformity with narrowness were more numerous some two-score years ago than they are now; but about that period not only was Nonconformity in general deemed by many persons a proof of bigotry, but that type of Dissent which was regarded as most objectionable was supposed to be embodied in the minister of the Weigh-house Chapel. To-day it is far otherwise, and in many an Anglican parsonage, as well as in some episcopal palaces, there will be the recognition in common with the Dissenting communions of a national loss by the death of Thomas Binney. The capacious intellect, the loving heart, and the Catholic spirit which were his became at length widely known; and they are now in some degree, doubtless, appreciated wherever the English language is spoken.

Mr. Binney was born in the month of April, 1798, at Newcastle-on-Tyne. About the time he attained his majority he had served his seven years in an establishment in his native town, where he obtained a practical acquaintance with printing, bookbinding, and bookselling. For two years of this time he was engaged from seven in the morning till eight at night, and for the other five from seven till seven, sometimes under great pressure.

"But somehow," he himself once told some young men whom he was stimulating to a career of self-improvement, "I found opportunities for much reading and a great deal of composition. I did not shirk, however, my Latin and Greek, for I went for some time two evenings in the week to an old Presbyterian clergyman, to learn the elements of the two languages, and could read Cæsar and St. John; but my great work was English. I read many of the best authors, and I wrote largely both poetry and prose; and I did so with much painstaking. I laboured to acquire a good style of expression, as well as merely to express my thoughts. Some of the plans I pursued were rather odd, and produced odd results. I read the whole of Johnson's 'Rasselas,' put down all the new words I met with—and they were a good many—with their proper meanings, and then I wrote essays in imitation of Johnson, and used them up. I did the same with Thomson's 'Seasons,' and wrote blank verse to use his words, and also to acquire something of music and rhythm. And so I went on, sometimes writing long poems in heroic verse; one on the 'Being of a God,' another in two or three 'books,' in blank verse, in imitation of 'Paradise Lost.' I wrote essays on 'The Immortality of the Soul,' sermons, a tragedy in three acts, and other things very wonderful in their way, you may be sure. I think I can say I never fancied myself a poet or a philosopher; but I wrote on and on to acquire the power to write with readiness; and I say to you, with a full conviction of the truth of what I say, that having lived to gain some little reputation as a writer, I attribute all my success to what I did for myself, and to the habits I formed during those years to which I have thus referred."

The studies thus commenced were afterwards continued and extended under more favourable circumstances. Mr. Binney quitted business, and after some private and academical training in the North of England, entered Wymondley College, Herts (founded by the trustees of Mr. Coward, and now merged in New College, St. John's Wood), where for a time he was a fellow-student of the editor of this journal. In 1824 he became pastor of the Congregational Church in St. James's-street, Newport, Isle of Wight. The Rev. W. F. (now Dr.) Hook, Dean of Winchester, and the Rev. Samuel Wilberforce, afterwards Bishop of Winchester, occupied posts on the island as clergymen at the same time. Some forty-five years afterwards Bishop Wilberforce was publicly reminded by Mr. Binney at a city banquet that when both were young men the bishop had spoken at a meeting of the Bible Society in his (Mr. Binney's) chapel. While in the Isle of Wight Mr. Binney wrote, we believe, his first book. This was a "Memoir of the Rev. Stephen Morell," a young man who died soon after entering the ministry, whose friendship had been enjoyed by Mr. Binney, and who, during his theological training at Homerton College, had been associated in his studies with Dr. Jacobson, the present Bishop of Chester. Mr. Binney remained about five years in the Isle of Wight, and during that period he delivered a course of expository lectures, a selection from which, some little time after his arrival in London, were published in one volume, under the title, "Illustrations of the Practical Power of Faith, in a Series of Popular Discourses on part of the Eleventh Chapter of the Epistle to the Hebrews." This work, which is of sterling value, was dedicated to the preacher's former congregation at Newport, and has since reached a third edition. In 1829 Mr. Binney became pastor



of the King's Weigh House Chapel, then situated in Little Eastcheap. Soon after his settlement a wider thoroughfare was required for the traffic through Eastcheap, and the old Weigh House was doomed to demolition. The foundation-stone of the present structure was laid by the pastor on Oct. 16, 1833, and an address was delivered by him on the occasion, which was afterwards published. It was in the appendix to this address, and not in the address itself, that "the celebrated sentence" occurred, which, separated from its context and misrepresented in its bearing, led at the time to so complete a misapprehension of the character of the man by those who knew him only by this isolated particle of writing. The attacks of which he became the object led to his writing the controversial pamphlets, "What? and Who Says It?" edited by John Search, and "Strike but Hear," "Two Letters, by Fiat Justitia; the first to a Churchman, who condemns him for going too far; the second to a Dissenter, who expostulates with him for not going far enough," had, if we mistake not, been published previously.

The minister of the new chapel often found among the people of his charge individuals or families who were about to emigrate to the British colonies, or who had parted with beloved relatives, gone to settle there. The spiritual destitution of numbers who had once been wont to listen to the preaching of the Gospel, many of them formerly belonging to his flock, and their kindred, became a subject of painful interest, which laid hold of Mr. Binney's best sympathies, and led him to obtain the co-operation of several of his brethren and a number of influential laymen in the establishment of the Colonial Missionary Society, of which he may thus be regarded as the founder, and was alone the zealous supporter.

When the Rev. W. Shore was lodged in gaol by the Bishop of Exeter, for costs in the proceedings in which that gentleman was mulcted for daring to exercise his ministry beyond episcopal supervision, Mr. Binney took a leading part in the movement for Mr. Shore's release. Some who heard his speech at Exeter Hall on this matter will never forget the impression they then derived of the dormant power which he unquestionably possessed in the sphere of forensic eloquence.

As a political writer in the real standing controversy between Church and Dissent, he always adhered to the practice of touching it on the religious side only. How powerfully he could thus write is known to those who are acquainted with some of the pieces mentioned above, as well as his "Hints on Dissent," "Dissent not Schism," "Conscientious Clerical Nonconformity," "The Great Gorham Case," &c. He took part in some other controversies, which need not now be revived. All, however, was subsidiary to his great work as a teacher of Divine truth. Among the works which will be best remembered as among the productions of his ministry, are his "Sermons preached in the King's Weigh House Chapel, London, 1829-1868," "Micah, the Priest Maker," "Money: a Popular Exposition, or Rough Notes, with Remarks on Stewardship and Systematic Beneficence," "The Ultimate Design of the Christian Ministry," "The Christian Ministry not a Priesthood," "St. Paul: his Life and Ministry to the End of his Third Missionary Journey," "The Closet and the Church," and it must suffice to name last, but not least (for we cannot attempt to enumerate all) "The Service of Song in the House of the Lord." This publication was but one expression of many in a movement in which Mr. Binney and his congregation took the leading part in improving the psalmody of Evangelical Dissent.

In 1848, Mr. Binney received the highest honour which it was in the power of his brethren to confer, by being appointed chairman of the Congregational Union of England and Wales. In that capacity he delivered three able addresses, which excited considerable attention. He had previously (in 1843) been appointed to preach before the assembly of the Union at its autumnal meeting held in Leeds. He fulfilled not only that engagement, but another at the same place, under precisely similar circumstances, twenty-five years afterwards (in 1868).

Repeated failures in health led Mr. Binney to travel not only more than once on the continent of Europe, but in Egypt, the United States, and Australia. His visit to Australia, undertaken mainly to recruit his constitution, and partly to visit his sons, was not without a remarkable incident, the main features of which are thus sketched by the *Daily News*:-

"Mr. Binney arrived in Australia at a time when the question of State aid to churches had directed attention to that of religious equality. He went there determined to take no part in ecclesiastical questions, but he had not been in the colony many months before a number of laymen in the Church of England, with Sir R. G. MacDonnell, Governor of South Australia, at their head, presented a memorial to the Bishop of Adelaide, Dr. Augustus Short, asking that the pulpits of the diocese might be open to Mr. Binney. The bishop replied that the spirit which had prompted the presentation of the memorial was 'worthy of all respect,' but added that 'neither the power of Mr. Binney's intellect, nor vigour of his reasoning, nor purity of life, nor suavity of his manners, nor soundness in the faith, would justify him (the bishop) in departing from the rule of the Church of England, a tradition of eighteen centuries, which declared Mr. Binney's orders irregular, his mission the offspring of division, and his church system, he would not

say schism, but dichotomy—a standing apart.' Dr. Short did not write these sentences without acknowledging that 'his feelings kicked against his judgment.' But, he added, 'not to its overthrow.' So far Mr. Binney was no party to these proceedings, but Dr. Short followed up his reply to the memorialists by a letter addressed to Mr. Binney himself, full of expressions of personal respect for his character, on the necessity value and of Christian union, and proposing the question whether an outward union is desirable amongst the Protestant Evangelical Churches, and what are the conditions on which such union should be effected. The bishop said he longed for 'that Church of the Future which is to conciliate all affections and unite all diversities.' As the bishop developed his views, however, it appeared that he abated nothing of the exclusive claims and pretensions of his own church, and expected them to be submitted to by Christians of all non-Episcopal communion. Such a correspondence could have no result but to throw into prominence grounds of division previously existing. Mr. Binney replied to the bishop that the division of the Christian Church into sections must be accepted and dealt with as a great fact, and that it was out of the question for the whole Protestant world to come to an agreement to act as the bishop proposed. He showed that the system which recognises 'orders' and apostolical succession, and a grace communicable only through a priesthood, was one which the Nonconformists could never accept. But while he thus criticised systems he was never wanting in respect for men, and after the correspondence referred to he declared that 'there was not a more radiant genial soul in all Australia than the Bishop of Adelaide.' With the Bishop of Melbourne, Dr. Parry, his intercourse was even more happy. Upon one occasion, when Bishop Parry and Mr. Binney were passengers together from Sydney to Melbourne, the bishop proposed that on the Sunday morning, when a service was to be held, he should read the prayers, and that Mr. Binney should preach. Mr. Binney afterwards wrote, 'I would much rather have listened to him; but I gave in. After his lordship had gone through the English service I took his place, and addressed the congregation.'

It was not until between two and three years ago that Mr. Binney finally retired from his ministry at the Weigh House. It was with great satisfaction that he resigned the charge of his flock into the hands of the Rev. William Braden. But he may be said to have ceased to labour only with his life; for besides his services in different parts of the country at anniversaries and other special occasions, he for the last year or two fulfilled the duties of a professorship at New College, of which institution he was President of the Council.

As a preacher, his fame will long linger among those who had the privilege of hearing him. As a preacher to young men, his work has been incalculably great and must be as imperishable as the souls whom he successfully adjured at all costs to buy the truth and sell it not.

Mr. Binney repeatedly appeared at Exeter Hall as one of the lecturers of the Young Men's Christian Association. On every such occasion the cordial reception which he has obtained from his numerous audience has afforded the most emphatic testimony to the value attached to his labours on behalf of young men. Several of the addresses thus delivered have been expanded into entire volumes, which have obtained a wide circulation. In this way there have appeared, "Is it Possible to Make the Best of Both Worlds?" (which is said to have sold, for a year after it was published, at the rate of one hundred copies a day); "From Seventeen to Thirty,"—the expansion of a lecture entitled, "The Town Life of a Youth from the Country: its Trials, Temptations, and Advantages:—Lessons from the History of Joseph"; and "Sir T. F. Buxton: a Study for Young Men." A course of lectures to young men, from the book of Proverbs, delivered in the ordinary course of ministerial duty, was followed by a lecture addressed to young women, from Proverbs xxxi. This is included in the last volume we have mentioned, under the title of "The Wife; or, a Mirror for Maidenhood. A Sketch."

Mr. Binney was twice married. By his first wife, Miss Nixon, he had several sons, four of whom survive him, and nearly all of whom are in Australia. For nearly thirty years he has been united to one of the daughters of the late Thomas Piper, Esq., who survives him, and who has inspired with the deepest respect all who have the privilege of her acquaintance.

Several years since Mr. Binney received from the University of Aberdeen a diploma conferring upon him the degree of LL.D. Some years before one of the theological institutions of the United States gave him the honorary degree of D.D. But neither of these honorary distinctions were used by the deceased, who may have thought, as did others, that the name of "Thomas Binney" was its own recommendation, and did not stand in need of ornamental appendages.

We understand that the mortal remains of Mr. Binney will be interred in Abney Park Cemetery on Monday next, and that there will be a service in some neighbouring chapel about one o'clock, the admission to which will necessarily be by tickets. All particulars both as to time, place, and where tickets may be obtained will be duly advertised in the daily papers.

In an obituary notice this morning the *Times* makes the following critical remarks, which

we quote without comment:—"Dr Binney was, as we have said, long recognised as the chief leader of the Independents, and he thoroughly deserved the position he attained and kept. We must remember, however, that in the middle of the last century, with the death of Watts and Doddridge, the leadership of Nonconformity passed away from the Independents. The Methodists have since succeeded to the widest popular influence, and what there has been of learning and intellect in the whole body has been found chiefly among the Baptists and the Unitarians. The Independents have since furnished a good succession of useful men with respectable ability. They can point with a just pride to Bogue, Burder, Toller, Clayton, Palmer, and to others of the same stamp, of whom Dr. Binney was the adequate successor and representative. In intellectual power he has proved himself the equal of any of them. His writings are always distinguished by their sound common sense, and he has deduced with great logical force the true conclusions from the somewhat narrow premises which he accepted as fundamental truth. He seems never, from first to last, to have wavered in any of his opinions. It is singular to remark the air of perfect content which seems to pervade everything he has written or expressed. The bent of his mind never led him to a strict and troublesome inquiry into the accuracy and value of the first principles of his creed. He was quite satisfied with the easier and less anxious task of deducing from them the consequences which they logically involved, and this he did with great force and great clearness of expression. As he is the most complete, so, probably, he will be the last type of an able man contented with the Nonconformist creed. His successors are likely to be men of less power or to be less satisfied that they have found the true solution of the past and the true guide to the future of religious life. Dr. Binney has passed away, in a good old age, having deserved and received the respect of his contemporaries, and without any apparent consciousness of narrowness or failure. The victory for which he long contended has been in great part won. The various disciples of Nonconformity have gained the freest right of holding and expressing their respective views. The law imposes upon them no restraint or disability, and public opinion pronounces no sentence of condemnation. The long conflict by which this has been attained may well have employed the utmost zeal and ability of those who were engaged in it, but the final triumph has been singularly barren and unproductive. The prospects of Dissent were most hopeful, and its fervour of thought and purpose were at their height about the time when Dr. Binney first fixed himself in London. Its subsequent efforts have been chiefly productive of greater zeal in its opponents; and though, as we have said, the cause of Dissent has been in a certain sense triumphant, it has still to contend against the undiminished forces of its antagonists, and has done little or nothing to advance its distinctive views or to establish any portion of its creed as the rational conviction of mankind. It has been the singular happiness of Dr. Binney to have died, as it were, almost in the hour of victory, and before he had become aware that the kind of success he had reached could do so little to realise his ultimate ideal."

Mr. J. R. Hind, the astronomer, has received from Professor Winnecke, director of the Observatory at Strasburg, the following position of a comet discovered by him in the Constellation Vulpecula on the morning of Saturday last:—February 20, at 17h. 16m. 40s. mean time—Right ascension, 20h. 35m. 34.2s.; north declination, 26deg. 0m. 40s. The diurnal motion in right ascension is 9m. increasing, and in declination 1deg. 30 min. towards the south.

RUGBY SCHOOL.—The *Spectator* characterises the new head master of Rugby as an excellent scholar, a Broad Churchman, inclining rather to orthodoxy than scepticism, of deep personal religious feeling, and possessed of the art of governing by a smile. The *Spectator* adds that Dr. Jex-Blake was the most popular of Rugby masters, inherited all Arnold's traditions, and will, without doubt, speedily raise the school to its old level, both of numbers and of tone. Simultaneously with the election of the Rev. Dr. Jex Blake, principal of Cheltenham College, to the head mastership of Rugby School, it is announced that a bill has been filed in the Court of Chancery for an injunction to restrain the proceedings of the governing body in respect of Dr. Hayman's dismissal.

SIR CHARLES REED, M.P.—Mr. Charles Reed, M.P. for Hackney, on whom Her Majesty has been pleased to confer the honour of knighthood, is the eldest son of the late Andrew Reed, D.D., the well-known philanthropist and founder of the Earlswood, Reedham, and London Orphan Asylums, and was born in the year 1819. He was educated at the University of London. He is one of the Conservators of the River Thames, a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries, and a Commissioner of Lunacy for Middlesex; he has been a member of the London School Board since its first formation, acting as vice-chairman of the board under Lord Lawrence on the previous occasion, and now being chosen chairman in his place. He has represented Hackney as a Liberal since the enfranchisement of that constituency in 1868; and he married, in 1845, Margaret, youngest daughter of Mr. Edward Baines, of Leeds.



## Literature.

## WADDINGTON'S CONGREGATIONAL HISTORY.

The members of the Congregational Churches will be glad to receive the second volume of Dr. Waddington's History of Congregationalism, and others should also gratefully receive the materials which the author has collected together. The deeper any one digs into the mines of the ecclesiastical history of this country, the greater will be his appreciation of the character and work of the early standard-bearers of Nonconformity, and his abhorrence of the unrighteous means that were adopted to extirpate them. They were men of whom their country was not worthy, who in their generation were despised and rejected, but to whom England owes most of such religious character as she now possesses. Dr. Waddington has brought many of them before us in bolder relief than any other historian has done, while his collection of original documents, illustrative of their history, is of curious interest and value. The quotations, however, of such documents is attended with a disadvantage to which few authors ever willingly subject themselves. It gives a "dry" aspect to the history, and burdens it with small and sometimes comparatively unimportant details. Dr. Waddington is conscious of this, for, in justifying their insertion, he expresses the opinion that "it is better, in the present case, to convince one patient and thoughtful reader than to amuse a thousand. If, therefore, complaint should be made that the documents are taken in their original form, and at too great length, it must be understood that they are so exhibited for the sake of exact truth, and to avoid a colouring that would be deceptive." Another disadvantage, however, is not referred to. It is almost inevitable that lengthy quotations of the character given in this volume should be accompanied by a want of proportion, and this is a fault which will be obvious to most readers of this work. Some matters are given in great detail, while others are comparatively skimmed. The result is a want of harmonious unity and effect. However, the work now produced is a valuable one, and whatever objections may, on such grounds, be felt to it, it should be remembered that it is the sort of work which the author intended to produce.

We think that the most valuable portion of this history is that dealing with the Elizabethan period, which, as is well known, the author has studied with singular diligence and enthusiasm. Dr. Waddington brought us, in his previous volume, to the foundation of the first Congregational Church in London under Richard Fritz. The key-note of the present volume is struck in the following manner:—

"The first Congregational Church in the reign of Elizabeth was formed by a company of Christian people, confined in the Bridewell of the City of London for meeting to worship God in a manner different from the form appointed by law.

"The privations they endured in prison, with the death of their pastor and deacon, made no change in their convictions, or in their purpose to maintain them under all conditions. Immediately, therefore, on their liberation from bonds, they resumed their meetings in Whitechapel Street."

"Greatly displeased by their persistence, Grindal, Bishop of London, said, 'It was his intention to deal with more of them to the like effect; but now all the heads of this unhappy faction should be severely punished with all expedition, to the example of others as fanatical and incurable.' Six of the most desperate of them should be sent to the common goal of Cambridge, six likewise to Oxford, and some to the gaols hereabouts."

Such was the style in which the advent of Congregationalism in England was welcomed by Elizabeth and her bishops. We are next carried on to the memorable controversy between Whitgift and Cartwright and the movement for a further reformation. Field, Wilcox, and Travers are then brought into the picture. There were not many either of Nonconformists or Puritans at this period, and it is probable that the fears of the bishops exaggerated their number, or that such exaggeration was intentional in order to secure a sufficiently severe dealing with the new reformers. That severity was exercised without either mercy or remorse. Men were either hunted out of the kingdom or hunted into the prisons, and the bishops were hopeful that their "godly discipline" had been effectual, as though a Whitgift could extinguish the sun of Divine truth! We hear of one of the small but heroic band of those days, and cease to hear of him, but another appears to take up his standard. Of these men Dr. Waddington's opinion is generally just. Robert

\* Congregational History, 1567-1700, in Relation to Contemporaneous Events, and the Conflict for Freedom, Purity, and Independence. By JOHN WADDINGTON, D.D. (Longmans.)

Browne's character, for instance, is dealt with faithfully if severely. "He lacked," says the author, "the patience, self-command, and self-sacrifice, essential to a judicious leader, and his opinions on many points under discussion were exceedingly crude, but he enunciated principles that many were fully prepared to accept." Penry, Greenwood, and Barrow are again brought before us, but also others whose names are not so familiar. One of the most valuable documents quoted by Dr. Waddington is one by Jerome Studley, a prisoner, from which we make one or two quotations, indicating the high ideal of a Christian Church, entertained by the Separatists of this period, as distinguished from the ideal which the State would have compelled them to receive. Thus:—

"The church, as it is seen in this present world, consisteth of a company and fellowship of faithful and holy people, gathered in the name of Christ Jesus, their only King, Priest, and Prophet, worshipping Him aright, being peaceably and quietly governed by His officers and laws, keeping the unity of the faith in the bond of peace and love unfeigned."

"We seek to worship and obey Christ as our only King, Priest, and Prophet, and to our prince we are humble and obedient subjects in all things which are not repugnant to God's laws."

"There is no power given the prince to restrain any jot or liberty and power of the church, or to withhold any one person from doing the whole will of God in their calling, much less is there any power given the prince to draw or compel the church, or any member thereof, to the least transgression or error; yea, when the prince shall in anything be found contrary to God, God is to be obeyed rather than man."

"No prince, neither all the men in the world, nor the church itself, can make any law for the church other than Christ has left in His Word."

Pity that some of these principles were so soon forgotten!

We pass over the interesting matter relating to Udall and the famous Martin-Mar-Prelate tracts, with Coppinger's unfortunate and fatal interference, although the documents relating to these cases are some of the most valuable and interesting in Nonconformist history. The reader will also find full materials relating to Johnson and Ainsworth. We know how "the most tolerant Church in Christendom" dealt with such men, this being a specimen of its toleration:—

"John Johnson, the father of Francis and George Johnson, also presented a petition for their liberation, July 1, 1594, in which he says: 'The younger called George, "in the Fleet," have been kept sometimes two nights together without any manner of sustenance; sometimes twenty nights together without any bedding, save a straw mat; and as long without any change of linen; and all this sixteen months in the most dark and unwholesome rooms of the prison they could thrust them into; not suffering any of his friends to come unto him.' The Separatists were now supposed to be annihilated."

Dr. Waddington gives us a curious specimen from the sixteenth century, like a geological fossil, of Francis Johnson's views relating, above all things, to Disestablishment and Disendowment. We must confess that, although we thought we had read all Johnson's works, we failed to notice this singular passage:—

"On the subject of disestablishment, he says, 'The Queen may take to her own civil use the lordships and possessions of the prelates and other clergy, which happy work, by what princes soever it is done, as certainly it will come to pass for the Lord of Hosts hath spoken of it, it will greatly redound to the glory of God, the honour of themselves, the free passage of the Gospel, the peace of the Church, and the benefit of the whole Commonwealth.' He proposes that the endowments of the Church of England should be given 'for schools, universities, the upholding of hospitals, almshouses, and the like; for help of poor widows, and fatherless, and strangers, for the impotent sick and helpless of all sorts; for making and repairing of bridges and highways.' The Brownists, he adds, 'would have these idolatrous livings returned to the Commonwealth from which they were taken. But our forward (Puritan) ministers that wish the prelates down and their livings taken from them, would gladly have them for their own use, as you (Henry Jacob) have pleaded for them, and I fear they hold it no better than sacrilege if they be otherwise employed.'"

Of the attempt of "the people falsely called "Brownists" to colonise Florida, we have an interesting account. Anything was better than living in England—even the Spaniards and starvation. This attempt failed, and the pioneers took refuge in Holland. That was their best condition at the end of the reign of Elizabeth.

To the condition of the Congregationalists under James, Dr. Waddington devotes large space. It was not better than it had been under Elizabeth. We are taken to the Hampton Court Conference, and its wretched result; then to Scrooby, where we are introduced to Bradford, to Brewster, then to Henry Jacob, to John Robinson, and so to the Leyden Church. In connection with all these the author furnishes some remarkably interesting documents and quotations strung together in a lucid style. Then we are taken in the gallant Mayflower to New Plymouth, the history of the settlement of which is given in considerable but not too full detail. Of course the author carefully distinguishes between the Pilgrims and the Puritans—a distinction which it is so necessary to keep in

mind in understanding the character of the early ecclesiastical legislation of New England.

Perhaps the chapter on the Commonwealth in this work will be most interesting to some readers, but the author's treatment of this period seem to us particularly wanting in breadth and necessary fulness. We have many quotations, good and valuable, but sometimes too much. We do not complain, as we have said, that original and comparatively unknown documents connected with our history should be given at length, but we are disposed to complain when we are treated to several pages from Milton's prose works and other printed matter. The letters from three soldiers of the Parliamentary army, in Chapter X., are of interest; but they have little to do with "Congregational History." The string of quotations on the meaning attached, at this period, to the word "Independence" is, however, of value; and the Westminster Assembly is treated as it deserves.

Dr. Waddington's History ends with the year 1700, but the latter part of it is comparatively meagre. We will close our notice in a few words from the author's preface:—"In collecting the materials for this history, I have had many long and wearisome journeys; for years I have spent days and nights in consuming toil, and devoted what could be spared of pecuniary means. But I shall be amply compensated if the Congregational churches of England and America are made acquainted with the principles, the character, and example of the men into whose labours they have entered, and from whose sacrifices they now enjoy freedom and security and peace." We trust that Dr. Waddington will meet with at least this compensation.

## "A DICTIONARY OF SECTS AND HERESIES."

A book which should give in a compendious form a reliable account of the varieties of theological opinion which have at different times prevailed in the Christian Church, and of the parties by whom they have been held, would be a work of considerable interest and value, but the preparation of it would not be an easy task, and would require special qualifications not often met with. A bare recital of the doctrines taught by the several sects, an outline of their history, and a sketch of some of their leaders, might be done with comparative ease. The facts may, for the most part, be obtained without much difficulty; and it requires only a fair amount of diligence in research, honesty of purpose, and skill in compilation, to furnish the amount of information necessary to satisfy those who desire to obtain a general and somewhat superficial acquaintance with the tenets and history of religious parties. The Dictionary before us, however, aims to supply a good deal more than this, for it gives not only a résumé of facts, but seeks to guide us in the formation of our opinions, and pronounces very definite judgments of its own. Now, to do this wisely and equitably, an editor should have great Catholicity of spirit, breadth of view, capacity for estimating the position of those with whom he does not agree—in short, a good deal of metaphysical acumen, judicial impartiality, and, above all, spiritual insight. We know few men who appear to us at all competent for the work. Possibly the Dean of Westminster is—for to extensive knowledge he unites a true charity, a singular ability to perceive, and an equally rare willingness to recognise, the strong points of an opponent's case, and a temper which no man seems able to ruffle or betray into injustice. His views, theological and ecclesiastical, are not ours, but we could trust him to give as fair a statement of our position as would be given by any man who does not himself occupy it. It is very seldom, of course, that any of us would feel that our case is as well stated by a critic or an unsympathising historian as by ourselves, but it requires a man like the dean, who has a large heart and a considerable historic faculty, to make an approach even to accuracy and fairness. Such a man Mr. Blunt certainly is not. We give him credit for the selection of able contributors, and we will give both them and him credit for a desire to be just—at least according to their light. But he and they are men with a strong party bias, and the book is essentially a party book. There is a great deal of valuable and useful matter, but the bias is so strong and evident everywhere that we have to be continually on the watch, and carefully to test every statement that is made on points when the writers have decided prepossessions. It is a High-Church view of the parties and controversies of the Christian Church, and the writers never seem for a moment to forget their

\* Dictionary of Sects, Heresies, Ecclesiastical Parties, and Schools of Religious Thought. Edited by JOHN HENRY BLUNT, M.A. (London: Bivington.)



peculiar theory, or to shrink from applying it, in their judgment of individuals, sects, or opinions. With them the Anglican Church seems to be the centre of the religious movements of the universe; in her—or rather in that section of her clergy whom the writers represent—all wisdom and truth are supposed to reside, and parties and theories are good or evil according to their relation to them. Of philosophical discussion of principles and tendencies, of a candid recognition of the truth and goodness to be found in opponents, there is little trace. Indeed, it would almost seem as if the writers were incapable of seeing anything but self-will, passion, and error in what they are pleased to regard as heresy and heretics—and in this class they include all who do not hold their theories. They are so far impartial that they are not more unjust to Dissenters than to Broad Churchmen, nor do they treat Evangelicals much worse than Roman Catholics; and in fact they put down all alike, with a dogmatism which is so sincere and self-complacent that it becomes amusing.

We must, however, give some evidence of our assertions. At the commencement we have an historical table, at the head of which is placed "Church of England of Apostolic Origin." A very pleasant assumption, which at once would end many controversies, if only it could be established on historical evidence. Admit it, and with it the idea of apostolical succession, and there will be little difficulty in proving that the little sect of High-Churchmen—for however socially influential it may be in this country, it is a mere fraction of Christendom—is indeed, a branch of the true Catholic Church entitled to treat all Dissenters, whether Roman Catholics or Protestant Nonconformists, as mere sectaries. The impudence of the pretension is simply sublime; but it must be said on behalf of those who put it forward that they fully believe in it themselves, a fact which is all the more creditable to them—as certainly outside their own narrow circle it would be hard for them to find any one who shares their opinions. By that they are not the least troubled, but continue to set forth their own one-sided versions of ecclesiastical history as though they had never been disputed, or were in fact anything better than the merest figments of their own imaginations, and to propound their claims as though they had obtained recognition from all but a few deluded individuals who had closed their ears against the teachings both of the Church and of history. The proud old Church of Rome laughs them and their assumptions to scorn; the Eastern Church looks coldly on their advances towards a "Catholic" fellowship; the Nonconformists of all sects and classes protest against the arrogance whose demands they set aside; and even among the clergy of their own Church there are numbers who treat their claims as a mere nullity. Not the less do they persist in them, and talk of all those who refuse to acknowledge them as though they were rebels against Divine authority, and aliens from the commonwealth of Israel. There is a well-known story of a good Presbyterian minister in one of the islands on the coast of Argyllshire, who used to pray for the Divine blessing on the two Cumbræ and the adjacent islands of Great Britain and Ireland. He was a fitting type of these High-Churchmen who mistake their little Cumbræ for the Catholic Church of Christ, and treat all the Christian world beside as a little outlying islet—on which, however, we doubt whether they would be willing with the Scotch clergyman to invoke the Divine blessing. In the remarkable table of which we speak, Protestant Dissenters and Roman Catholics, occupy a very humble position; the one at the extreme right, and the other at the extreme left, of English sectarianism, while in the centre is the Church of England, the representative—at least in its best section, the moderate High-Church party—of that "national party of English race," which may be traced back to mediæval times, and which then maintained the rights of the National Church against the encroachments of Rome. Of that party Wickliffe was the extreme representative, and to him through the Puritan party of the Reformation period our lineage as Dissenters is traced. We are not ashamed of such an ancestry, nor of the position in which it places us, and certainly prefer it to that of the Low-Church party, who are represented here as of doubtful origin; springing up in the 17th century, though from what parentage is not very clear. This chart of our parties is interesting mainly as showing the spirit of the book, and as a key to its views of our ecclesiastical history. Its correctness would be disputed at every point and by all classes.

It would require a volume of considerable size to examine and criticise all the statements in this Dictionary to which we object. All that we can attempt is to indicate their general character by a few characteristic examples.

Towards "Nonconformists" the writers, of course, entertain no friendly feeling, and the account of them is what might have been anticipated. We learn that "liberal terms were offered" to the men whom Charles II. found in possession of the benefices, and it was only through their insensibility to the charity and benevolence of the Church and Parliament that they were turned out. It is not added that the terms were such as it was well known they could not accept without the sacrifices of conscience and principle, and that one of the principal authors of the Act of Uniformity said, that if he thought it possible they could comply with them, they should have been made still harder. But there is not here a single expression of sympathy with men who, whether right or wrong, gave a noble example of fidelity to truth—an example which the world cannot afford to be without, and to which right-minded men of any Church may well do honour. On the other hand, instead of any reprobation of the proceedings of their persecutors, it "simply stated that Parliament (the civil power has always to bear the responsibility for the sins of its ecclesiastical instigators) passed a severe law against them, called the Five-Mile Act, thus placing them in a more unfavourable condition than ordinary Dissenters." Who these "ordinary Dissenters" were, or what the treatment adopted towards them, does not appear. The Five-Mile Act undoubtedly fell most heavily upon the ejected ministers, but it pressed also to some degree upon the members of their former congregations, who formed the body of the "ordinary Dissenters," but lest they should not feel the full severity of the persecution, for such it was then, the Conventicle and Tests Acts were passed. But of these there is no mention, and the reader would never have an idea from the article that the Nonconformists, to whom such "liberal terms" had been offered, were denied even toleration, and exposed to a series of persecutions of the most vexatious and irritating description. Then we have an attempt to reduce the number of the ejected from 2,000 to 800 by excluding from the list "curates and lecturers whose employments were not 'benefices';" those who voluntarily resigned their positions to dispossessed incumbents; and those who, though clergymen, did not actually hold any livings. But all these ought in all fairness to be included, and would swell the list at least to 1,500 or 1,600. The point is not of vital importance, for the principle remains the same whether 800 or 2,000 were thus expelled. The writer seems to have an objection to Dissenters now using the term "Nonconformists," which he wishes to confine to the ejected divines. It so happens, however, that we are Nonconformists; and as he and his friends choose to maintain the invidious distinction by upholding the Established Church and an Act of Uniformity, it seems rather hard that he should wish to deprive us of the name which correctly describes our position.

But we can hardly complain of the treatment we receive when we see the mode in which both the Evangelical and Broad-Church parties are described. The former are included under the general designation of "Low-Churchmen," who are defined as "those laymen and clergy—men of the Church of England who regard the 'ministry and sacraments principally in their relation to mankind,' and of them there are three varieties—the Puritans of the Reformation period, the Latitudinarians, or 'latitude men' of the seventeenth century, and the Evangelicals of later date. But these latter may reasonably object to have themselves regarded as the successors of the second class, from whom they are as wide as the poles asunder on points of doctrine, and with whom they agree only in relation to questions of Church authority. We are not surprised at the quiet contempt shown for the party even while their moral and spiritual excellence is acknowledged. Broad-Churchmen meet with even less mercy; and while we are told that Rationalism is the natural terminus of the school, every endeavour is made to disparage their intellectual power—so far, at all events, as theology is concerned. A book written in this spirit can be valuable only as giving us a party view, and this it does in a very forcible manner. For a philosophic and really Catholic estimate of our schools of religious thought we must look elsewhere.

#### ROBERT BUCHANAN'S COLLECTED WORKS.

Mr. Buchanan has adopted an arrangement which is well calculated to exhibit volume by volume the variety of his range. Good arrange-

*The Poetical Works of Robert Buchanan.* Vol. I. Ballads and Romances. Ballads and Poems of Life. (H. S. King and Co.)

ment indicates a power of self-criticism which few poets possess; and we confess that Mr. Buchanan has pleasantly surprised us in the fact he has shown in this first volume. Poems of very different periods, from the stately classic ring of "Polypheme," or "Persephone," or "Pan," which were conspicuous in the early "Undertones," down to the bold dramatic waggishness of the "Starling," and the half serious Irish rollick of "The Wake of Tim O'Hara"—specimens of almost his latest vein—are found here side by side, and, so to say, give effect to each other. The mysticolytical element which was so powerfully expressed in the "Book of Orm," is not so adequately represented, in spite of the "Dead Mother," and the ballad of "Judas Iscariot"—one of the most weird and powerful pleas for a broader construction of God's fatherly mercy,—being placed in the forefront of the volume. The reason of this may simply be that it has found its highest expression in works of a continuous and connected nature. But as we turn over these pages we are struck with the dramatic strength and range of the poet's topics, and his original manner of approaching them. Occasionally, as in the "City Asleep," there is a kind of suggestion of Wordsworth in the assumption; but speedily the poet passes into purely individual chords, and catches harmonies that rather lay beyond the terse meditative habit of Wordsworth. The preliminary poem to the Second Section, "Bexhill, 1866," exquisitely expresses this; and has peculiar value as occupying such a position in a collected edition because it lightly indicates certain personal or autobiographical traits which readily reveal themselves throughout, but might easily escape a cursory reader. For specimens of the ballad proper, we would wish to signalise the "Battle of Drumliemoor," steeped as it is in the Puritan sentiment, showing—in spite of certain inferences that might be drawn from "The Scottish Eclogue" near the close as to certain of the poet's theological determinations—that Puritanism in its dramatic side compels his assent and justifies itself to his imagination as a constituent in the production of that heroism which consists with homeliness, and is especially well suited to the simplest style of ballad treatment. This shows at least the dramatic fairness of the poet's mind, which should exclude no high or noble action because of the intellectual drifts amid which it may have taken root.

In such poems as "Meg Blane," and "Nell," the simple domestic rises to true tragedy—and this solely because of the poet's power in following up and faithfully exhibiting the working of one or two primitive trains of feeling, at last turning back upon themselves. "Kitty Kamble" is of a similar nature, though the process is applied to a very different type—the poor, pert adventures, faithfully followed through her varied career as ballet-girl, and rich man's mistress, to the grim but not altogether unpathetic show and pretension of the close. For humour of the raciest and broadest character, the "English Eclogue" may perhaps be cited. We are not sure that Mr. Buchanan's corrections are always improvements. In the earlier poems, "Pan" and "Persephone" have, we fancy, received touches that add a grace and glow, lines here and there have been deleted, and simplicity is most often gained; but some of the alterations in "Drumliemoor" again we have not yet reconciled ourselves to.

"Where the heather is thickest red  
With the blood of those asleep beneath the clay;  
And the Howiesons were there and the people of  
Glen Ayr.

And we gathered in the gloom o' night—to pray—  
does not strike as so simple as the original—"gloom o' night" for "dark o' night," is surely a change for the worse. "Clari in the Well" is purely a poem of fancy, based on a conceit, but it is very admirable in workmanship. We would fain have given some specimens to justify what we have said; but our space is limited, and we must content ourselves with but two. The first shall be from "The Ballad of Judas Iscariot," in which the Soul is figured as trying in vain to dispose of the wretched Body, which the earth refuses to conceal, which floats high on the water, and cannot be made away with. For days and nights the Soul wanders, bearing its doom, the dead body, and at length the Soul sees,—

"A far-off light across the water,  
As dim as dim might be,  
That came and went like the lighthouse gleam  
On a black night at sea."

To it comes the soul of Judas Iscariot, to see through the lighted windows, after the Body has been stretched along the snow, the Bridgroom at the table-head with the wedding-guests around. Hearing the sounds of feet about the door, they each offer their explanation. But



the Bridegroom, not satisfied, himself rises and goes to the door:

"Twas the soul of Judas Iscariot  
Did hush itself, and stand,  
And saw the bridegroom at the door  
With a light in his right hand.

The bridegroom shaded his eyes and looked—  
And his face was bright to see—  
'What dost thou here at the Lord's Supper  
With thy body's sins?' said he.

'Twas the soul of Judas Iscariot  
Stood black and red, and bare—  
'I have wandered many nights and days;  
There is no light elsewhere.'

'Twas the wedding guests cried out within,  
And their eyes were fierce and bright—  
'Scourge the soul of Judas Iscariot  
Away into the night!'

The bridegroom stood in the open door,  
And he waved hands still and slow,  
And the third time that he waved his hands  
The air was thick with snow.

And of every flake of falling snow,  
Before it touched the ground,  
Then came a dove, and a thousand doves  
Made sweet sound.

'Twas the body of Judas Iscariot  
Floated away full fleet,  
And the wings of the doves that bare it off  
Were like its winding sheet.

'Twas the bridegroom stood at the open door  
And beckoned smiling sweet:  
'Twas the soul of Judas Iscariot  
Stole in, and fell at his feet.

'The Holy Supper is spread within,  
And the many candles shine,  
And I have waited long for thee  
Before I poured the wine!'

The supper-wine is poured at last,  
The lights burn bright and fair,  
Iscariot washes the Bridegroom's feet,  
And dries them with his hair."

Whatever objection may be raised to the boldness of the theme and occasional irregularity and roughness of measure, no reader could deny the power and the freedom of the treatment, or the weird effect got from such simple methods.

One other specimen is a little bit of description—which we think exquisite—from "Meg Blane"—

"Now faintlier blew the wind, the thin rain ceased,  
The thick cloud cleared like smoke from off the strand,  
For, lo! a bright blue glimmer in the East,—  
God putting out His hand!  
And overhead the rack grew thinner too,  
And through the smoky gorge  
The Wind drove past the stars, and faint they flew,  
Like sparks blown from a forge!  
And now the thousand foam-flame o' the sea,  
Hither and thither flashing visibly;  
And grey lights hither and thither came and fled,  
Like dim shapes searching for the drowned dead.  
And where these shapes most thickly glimmered by,  
Out on the cruel reef the black hulk lay,  
And cast, against the kindling Eastern sky,  
Its shape gigantic on the shrouding spray."

By many readers and students of poetry, this collected series of the works of one whom, with all his faults, we think a true poet, will, we doubt not, be warmly welcomed and prized. It is beautifully printed, and is every way a handsome volume.

#### HOMILETICS.\*

##### Second Notice.

Though not strictly works on preaching, but rather helps for preachers, we may without impropriety direct attention in this article to two useful periodicals which contain a good deal of homiletical matter. These are "The Preacher's Lantern" and "The Study," the volumes of which for 1873 are before us. In the former Mr. Evans has translated articles by Professor Van Oosterzee on the Science of Faith and kindred topics. A series of outlines of sermons, by Caleb Morris, deserve careful perusal. "The Lantern Turned on the Preacher," perhaps reveals too much of the ludicrous, but it is not uninteresting. Clemens gives us "Reminiscences of Student and Pastoral Life," breathing a spirit of quiet wisdom and unfeigned piety, which cannot but refresh and stimulate young ministers and old. The following quotation hits so fairly an acknowledged blemish on Independency which too many passively acquiesce in, if they do not positively promote, that we cannot forbear extracting it:—

"I had a strong and conscientious aversion to the methods usually employed in procuring a new pasto-

\* A Treatise on Homiletics. By DAVID P. KIDDER D.D. Third edition. (Dickinson and Higham.)  
The Preacher's Lantern. Volume III. (Hodder and Stoughton.)

The Study: Helps for Preachers from English, American, and Continental Sources. First Series. (R. D. Dickinson.)

Fifty Sermons. By the Rev. T. DE WITT TALMAGE, D.D. Second Series. (R. D. Dickinson.)

"Points," from the Writings of T. De Witt Talmage, D.D. (Hodder and Stoughton.)

rate within the bounds of my denomination. To be on the eager look out for a desirable vacancy, to importune influential ministers or laymen for a recommendation to it; and then, if so far successful, to run a race of competition with other candidates for it, all of whom had probably gone through the same ordeal of patronage; and, finally, to await the decision of, perhaps, a many-minded and discordant community, appeared to me what no one who had any just conception and sense of the sacredness of his office should consent to. To do so would be not only a personal humiliation, but degrading to the sanctity of the office itself, and to practise measures suitable only to eager competitors for some secular office. This is a serious defect of our present Congregational system, and requires correction. I, therefore, rigidly abstained from attempting to reinstate myself."

The Study gleams largely from American sources. It contains lectures on preaching by Ward Beecher, and a large collection of pulpit illustrations, among other useful papers; and the volume has a good index, in which respect it is superior to Messrs. Hodder and Stoughton's publication.

In his section upon published sermons as a source of homiletical instruction, Dr. Kidder acutely remarks, "While, in its original and complete sense, a sermon cannot be printed, since nothing is strictly a sermon or speech which is not spoken, yet usage allows us to call that a sermon which has been written for delivery, or which has been reported from the lips of a preacher." Printed sermons are to the true sermons as photographs to a living face or a landscape. Nevertheless, the study of them is indubitably of great benefit to the preacher. The newest volume of sermons that has come to our hands, of which Dr. De Witt Talmage is the author, reminds us of the old saying, "Does it read well? then it was not a good sermon." Dr. Talmage's sermons do not read well, and therefore may have been good sermons. Some of them are the quintessence of what has been queerly designated "sensational preaching"; that is, they aim solely at the excitement of feeling. In these discourses the delivery is almost everything. If they were sermons natural to the bias of the preacher's mind, prepared and preached in simple earnestness without an atom of affectation, delivered hot from the heart, with flashing eye and quivering lip, doubtless they were powerful sermons, and produced a great impression. But they are not sermons which one can approve when sitting down to read them in cold blood. The best part of such discourses as these can never be printed, and therefore we question the wisdom of printing them at all. We cannot recommend them as models, but those preachers who are sensible that they are on the side of dryness, put too much intellect and too little emotion into their sermons, may read them with advantage. They will perceive what a mighty power mere imagination and emotion could wield, if duly supported by a firm logical skeleton, and animated by a spirit of utter self-forgetfulness and sincerity. Dr. Talmage has, we hope, the right spirit—but his homiletical skeleton is of cartilage, not bone. The "Points" are simply extracts from the sermons in the "Gems from Beecher" style. Such as they are, they are not always well-chosen, and a style like Talmage's is not prolific in choice similes, pithy sayings, wise reflections. It is a series of panoramic dissolving views best seen as a whole. If you read him at all, read the Sermons, not the Points.

#### BRIEF NOTICES.

From Patna to Paradise; or Light on the Past, the Present, and the Future. By the Rev. JOHN CUMMING, D.D., F.R.S.E., minister of the National Scotch Church, Covent Garden, London. (William Blackwood and Son.) The spirit of prophecy is still strong in Dr. Cumming. The present work—the title of which looks rather as if it had taken its rise from secular rather than from sacred suggestion—is an interpretation of the Book of Revelation. Dr. Cumming takes for granted that the symbols used in the Apocalypse are the fixed representatives of fixed and definite things. Whether this does not tend to empty many passages of their sublimely mystical character, we prefer not to pronounce. But it is something that in the matter of dates, Dr. Cumming is not so dogmatic as he has sometimes been heretofore, as will be seen in this passage on the Millennium.

"If the dates we have often mentioned be accurate, some may be here who shall not see death till the Lord come. I do not dogmatise. I try simply to interpret. Great prophetic epochs expired in 1868. The seventh millenary, or the seventh thousand year of the world, must soon begin, according to the best and most accurate chronology. Every day shows that we are experiencing vast changes; things look as if the wheel were receiving accelerated velocity as it nears the place where it revolves no more for ever. Certainly, no one can say, who looks at the world, at man,

and at society, as they now are, that things were meant to be as we now find them. Can we believe that those headaches and heartaches, and weariness, and consumptions, and fevers, and wrinkles, and old age, were originally meant for man—that these things are part and parcel of his nature? They are not so. God never made them; God made man holy and happy, and to live for ever; and wherever that happiness is interfered with, and that immortality is arrested, it is sin that is the secret of it, not the fiat of God originally pronounced when man was made. How blessed the thought that things will not continue as they are! How cheering the thought that the future is to every believer full of bright and holy things, when all shall be restored, and the earth shall be Paradise, and man shall be holier and happier than ever Adam was!"

The "Books" he utterly unliteralises—making the first that of Providence and the second that of Conscience—rather to the weakening of his own position, it strikes us. Our own country is the tenth part of that great kingdom that was to fall, and he prophesies that our country will never be permitted to merge itself in the ten; but is destined to be the great missionary power. There is here some eloquent and some very loose writing; but it is always readable, and may be of great attraction to those who like to dabble in prophecy and get a definite meaning for every term and sentence. Rather a profitless endeavour, to our thinking, notwithstanding that he believes that few who watch the "signs of the times" can fail to be convinced that "the sure word of prophecy" is being translated into contemporaneous history.

The King, Oedipus, and Philoctetes of Sophocles. Translated into English verse by LEWIS CAMPBELL, M.A., LL.D., Professor of Greek in the University of St. Andrews. (William Blackwood and Sons, Edinburgh and London, 1874.) This is the second instalment of Professor Campbell's admirable translation of the plays of Sophocles. Like the former portion this is as literal as the exigency of English metre will permit, and while it is good as English verse, it has the true classical character. This is an important matter in many respects, for Sophocles is often so rendered that he is made to express very like Christian sentiments in a language that has lost its idiosyncrasy. This is a cause of confusion—due either to the desire of assimilating the highest Greek thought to Christian feeling, or of rendering it intelligible to English readers. Professor Campbell is more conscientious. He makes the Greek dramatist speak his own thoughts as nearly as possible in his own idiom. Let our readers compare the following, both indeed admirable in their way:—

"Oh! that my lot may lead me in the path of holy innocence of word and deed, the path which august laws ordain, laws that in the highest empyrean had their birth, of which Heaven is the father alone, neither did the race of mortal men beget them, nor shall oblivion ever put them to sleep. The power of God is mighty in them, and groweth not old."

"Deep in my life, by Fate impressed,  
Let holiness of word and action rest  
And sinless thought, by those Eternal Laws  
Controlled, whose being Heaven alone did cause,  
Nor have they drawn their birth  
From mortal sires of Earth,  
But tread the loftiest Ether, whence they came.  
Ne'er shall oblivion tame  
Their wakeful spirit; mighty is the power  
Of God in these, nor knows the enfeebling hour."

The first is the exquisite prose of Mr. Matthew Arnold, the second Professor Campbell's poetic version.

Don Carlos. A Tragedy by Schiller. Translated in English blank verse by ANDREW WOOD, M.D., &c., &c. (Edinburgh: William P. Nimmo, 1873.) Dr. Wood is an enthusiastic admirer of Schiller. His enthusiasm is equal to that of the Germans themselves. And he admires especially and justly, the drama of Don Carlos. The introduction to this translation contains a sketch of Schiller's life as a literary man, with an estimate of his work generally. This is exceedingly well written, which is much to say considering the contribution made by Carlyle to the same subject. A valuable historical account of Don Carlos follows, with critical remarks on the drama which bears his name. Of the translation we could speak unreservedly with admiration, if it were not occasionally obscure. We marked for reference to the original, as needing explanation or wanting the English idiom, several passages. For example:—

"O! may heaven grant me to forget  
To him that he did her my mother make."  
He speaks of the Queen as formerly the bride of Don Carlos. Surely Brant is not bride.

"Lost is your country loved if Alva should  
March on to Brussels."

"Oh! if it should arrive,  
As to me says my heart, that thou'st found out  
From amongst millions me to understand."



"Since he so many lands has seen, the knight  
Will without doubt much that's remarkable  
To tell us have."

The German construction is here very manifest, and presents no difficulty to the reader acquainted with it, but it destroys the rhythm of the English verse and is unmusical. With a few exceptions of this kind the translation is very spirited, animated, and exact. Dr. Wood has conferred a boon upon Englishmen in giving them this version of a splendid drama. We have much pleasure in commending it to our readers.

**NEW MUSIC.**—*Rain Drops Patter*, by ALFRED SCOTT GATTY (R. Cocks and Co.), is number one of a series of Songs for Children. It has the requisite qualities to make it attractive to the young; both music and words are simple, melodious, and easy. It was originally published in *Aunt Judy's Magazine*. *Come Back, my Dream*. Poetry by C. L. KENNEY. Music by LYNETTE FOSTER. (R. Cocks and Co.) A graceful song with pleasing accompaniment, suited to the compass of a mezzo-soprano. *When the Ship comes Home*. By Mrs. J. WORTHINGTON BLISS. One of those popular songs which tells its own tale—after the fashion of so many of Claribel's songs—not unlike some of the old English ballads. *God Bless our Sailor Prince*. A National Song. Poetry by J. E. CARPENTER. Music by STEPHEN GLOVER. (R. Cocks and Co.) As this song is *apropos* of the royal wedding it is sure to enjoy some amount of popularity, but we do not imagine it will be one that will outlive the occasion, both words and music being decidedly commonplace.

#### THE EDUCATION ACT.

##### THE LONDON SCHOOL BOARD.

At the meeting of the London School Board on Wednesday, the debate on Canon Gregory's motion respecting the statistics of the board was resumed by Mr. J. A. Picton, who, after examining at great length the figures quoted by Canon Gregory and the Rev. Evan Daniel at former meetings, and controverting them, observed that this was not a mere dispute about figures. The real reason for bringing the motion forward was that there was a hope that the Education Act would break down and that the field would again be open for the purely voluntary schools; but he (Mr. Picton) hoped the board would not countenance any such action, for the delay that this motion would incur would have the effect of denying the blessings of education to thousands of children who would soon pass beyond the compulsory powers of the board. Mr. Peek expressed his great desire to agree to whatever school provision was found necessary; but said that as there was a feeling that the board had not in all respects been free from mistakes, he thought it would be prudent to accede to the motion of Canon Gregory, which, after all, was only one of inquiry. Dr. Gladstone, as a perfectly independent member, unpledged to either side, could not see how this matter could be satisfactorily settled by any committee but a committee of the whole board; but as Mr. Picton had shown that London had not made so large a proportionate school provision as other large towns, he urged the board to dispose of the motion and go on with its regular business. The motion was supported by the Rev. Dr. Irons and Mr. Foster, and opposed by Dr. Rigg, and ultimately the debate was adjourned.

It was resumed on Thursday. The Rev. Mr. Stephenson declared he could not vote for the motion and earnestly urged the members to cultivate the "gift of silence," in order that the board might get on with its business of providing for the children wanting education. The Rev. Mr. Bardsley followed in support of the motion, and Mr. Scrutton and Mr. Langdale against. Mr. A. Mills, M.P., continued the debate on the side of those in favour of the motion and disclaimed all idea of its being a vote of censure on the old board. Mr. George Potter in a trenchant speech opposed the motion. As to the outcry upon the cost of the system of the board, the speaker said the country spent millions to rescue a few of our countrymen held in durance by a barbarian; we maintained an expensive army of policemen to hunt out the criminals our social system begot and fostered; we could endure the cost of supporting a large body of criminal and paupers made criminals and paupers chiefly by ignorance; we could do all this, and yet no sooner was it proposed to spend a few hundreds of thousands to provide school instruction for the poor, the depraved and the neglected children of London, than a great outcry was made about "undue provision," "emptying denominational schools," and "extravagant expenditure." (Cheers.) Canon Gregory here offered to come to a compromise by withdrawing his motion if the inquiry he asked for was granted in some other form. There were cries of "No" to this proposal, and of "Divide," and so the debate went on. On a proposal then being made to adjourn for another week, Mr. S. Morley, M.P., urged that it would be a grievous waste of time to hold the matter over for another week, and urged the acceptance of Canon Gregory's offer of a compromise. This suggestion proved to be unwelcome to the majority, and the debate was adjourned till this day.

**BARNSTAPLE SCHOOL BOARD.**—The Barnstaple School Board election took place on Wednesday, and aroused scarcely less excitement than did the Parliamentary contest a week or two ago. The successful candidates were the Rev. G. T. Wallas and J. P. Finch, Churchmen; H. Hortop and A. Lander, Wesleyans; J. Brady, Catholic; J. Fletcher, Baptist; and T. Guppy, Independent.

**ST. THOMAS'S EXETER SCHOOL BOARD.**—Relative to the election which took place here on Wednesday, a correspondent writes:—"The Bishop of Exeter is a bachelor, and he has living with him a maiden sister, who was elected a member of the first school board for the apostolic parish, and has continued to serve it with good counsel, and the poor children of her sex in the schools have had the benefit of her guidance and benevolence. During the late Parliamentary election for the city, when two Tories were carried, it was said that this suburb, which used to be thought particularly Liberal, had almost wholly gone over to the enemy. It was inevitable therefore that the school board election should be a contest of political parties intensified by the 'religious difficulty.' Last year the Liberal Low-Church vicar, who was chairman of the board, had died, and as yet his successor had not been inducted, but in the ecclesiastical district recently formed in an outlying portion of the large parish, there was a clergyman available who was reputed to be High-Church, if not a Ritualist, and him the Tory party nominated with a view to place him if possible in the clerical chair. Unfortunately, Miss Temple could not identify herself with either party, and preferred to stand alone. The Tories did not greatly care to have even the bishop's sister at the board, and so made no effort to secure her return, and the Liberals could not afford to risk the loss of a representative of undenominational education on their side for one who could not be expected to support their principles at the board. Between the two stools even this respected lady from the episcopal palace shared the common fate, and went to the ground. The city Tories swarmed into the parish on Wednesday and did their utmost to secure the return of the advocates of what they call 'religious education,' and especially of the priestly nominee. To the high gratification of thousands in the city the clerical nominee was at the bottom of the poll, and though some regretted the loss—for social reasons—of the bishop's sister, that regret was much mitigated by her pairing off with the priest. Of the seven constituting the board four are Liberals, and of these three are Nonconformists, and of course advocates of unsectarian education."

#### THE LATE DR. LIVINGSTONE.

Advices from Zanzibar announce that Mr. Murphy, with the body of the late Dr. Livingstone, was expected at that place on the 20th inst. Dr. Dillon had shot himself. Lieutenant Cameron had gone on with the expedition to Ujiji to recover some documents which the late Dr. Livingstone was reported to have left there.

At the meeting of the Royal Geographical Society on Monday night, Sir Bartle Frere stated that Mr. Gladstone, before he left office, had recommended to the Queen that the children of Dr. Livingstone, whose loss was no longer, he feared, uncertain, should receive a pension of 200*l.* per annum. Since the society last met (Sir Bartle Frere said) a great number of letters had been received from different members of the expedition who went in search of Dr. Livingstone. It was very singular that all the statements seemed to refer to but one set of facts—just such a set of facts as must have been brought in by one messenger from a distance; but none of them gave those variations which might have been expected of people who had the power of cross-examining the witnesses upon whose testimony they relied, and it was still more extraordinary that none of them seemed to speak of the person upon whose information they relied as though they had seen and heard him. It was quite possible that the letters which had been received might have been written from the information of a messenger who had merely brought in a message from somebody who was still at some distance. That was the sole ground for hope. On the other hand, there were many circumstances which looked as if it were impossible that the story was unfounded. The secretary stated that letters had been received from Lieutenant Cameron and Dr. Dillon, written at various times between August 22 and October 22, so that they were somewhat in the form of a journal penned at intervals of fever and sickness. Lieutenant Cameron said he had received news of Dr. Livingstone's death from dysentery four or five months before the letter was written. A résumé of the news contained in Lieutenant Cameron's letter had been published by the Foreign Office. Mr. Hutchinson (secretary to the Church Missionary Society) observed that until he saw the name of Jacob Wainwright mentioned he had felt that the news of Dr. Livingstone's death was perhaps not correct. The Church Missionary Society, feeling great interest in Dr. Livingstone, sent out some volunteers to his rescue, their leader being Jacob Wainwright, who was a thoroughly trustworthy, earnest, good young man. When he (Mr. Hutchinson) heard that Chuma had arrived, bearing a letter from Jacob Wainwright, he felt that the last hope was gone. Sir Bartle Frere said the volunteers referred to were boys who had been educated by the Church Missionary Society a little distance from Bombay. Sir Bartle added that as

soon as Dean Stanley heard at St. Petersburg the sad news that Dr. Livingstone was believed to be dead, he wrote to Sir Henry Rawlinson saying that it was very unusual for the authorities of Westminster Abbey to take any steps in anticipation of an application to them from the friends of any great man who might have died; but he felt that this was such a special occasion that he begged Sir H. Rawlinson to remember that he (the dean) would be glad in the event of the body of Dr. Livingstone being forwarded to this country, to give it a resting-place in the abbey.

#### FIGURES FROM THE CENSUS.

According to the new completed volumes of the census the population of England and Wales on the census day, the 3rd of April, 1871, was 22,856,164. The females outnumbered the males by 450,000, even though among the latter was reckoned 143,898 men employed in the army, navy, and merchant service, and absent from our shores on the night of the enumeration. The proportions of this aggregate population, classed under different ages, show a very trifling relative variation from the results ascertained by former censuses. Of "babes and sucklings" (under one year) we find there were, in 1871, 686,372; of "infants" from one to five years, 2,394,442; of children from five to ten years, 2,714,932; of boys (10 to 15 years), 1,225,209; and of girls (10 to 15), 1,207,224; of youths (15 to 20 years), 1,098,198; and of maidens (15 to 20), 1,109,854; of young men (from 20 to 30), 1,188,020; and of young women between the same ages, 1,980,587; of men of middle age, 2,547,064; and of women of middle age, 2,724,505. Of males 41, and of females 114, are returned as over 100 years of age. The unmarried women in England between the ages of 15 and 21 is set down at 1,246,000; 39 out of every 100 men are found to be unmarried between the ages of 25 and 30. The English rate of births is nearly double the French. The number of inhabited houses in England and Wales for the census year was 4,259,117, and the number of families 5,049,016. More than a million of persons living in England and Wales were born elsewhere, the vast majority of these being adults. 800,000 of these were born in Scotland, Ireland, and the islands in the British seas, and 70,000 in the colonies. No more than 139,445 persons were born in foreign parts. In 1871 there were 938 "towns" in England: As to the occupations of the people the "professional class"—which includes all the public services, the learned professions, and the pursuit, as a business, of literature, art, and science—is computed to comprise 680,000 persons. The "domestic class" amounts to more than five millions. The "commercial class" shows a large and steady increase. The "agricultural class" numbers more than 1,600,000. The "industrial class" is computed to absorb 5,137,000 persons, about one-third of these being women. The "indefinite and non-productive class" embraces a considerable number of "general labourers, vagrants, criminals, &c.," as well as 168,000 persons of rank and property "without occupation," and 7,500,000 children.

#### Miscellaneous.

**HOMERTON COLLEGE.**—On Wednesday evening, Feb. 18, an address was delivered by the Rev. William Tyler in connection with the opening of the present session. The college is now full, there being twenty-six female and twenty-four male students. The next admission will take place in the third week of December, and the board would earnestly ask the co-operation of ministers and other persons interested in the education of the young to recommend for training suitable candidates.

**RAILWAY ACCIDENTS.**—No fewer than three railway accidents were reported on Friday. The most disastrous was that which happened to the limited mail, at Euxton, about seven miles from Preston. Three coal-trains having been stopped in consequence of the fog, the driver of the mail, which was travelling at the rate of from thirty to forty miles an hour, ran into the last one. The result was not only a terrible smash of rolling-stock, but the loss of two lives, and serious injury to fifteen persons. The Post Office van was knocked to pieces; but fortunately the mails escaped without being damaged. Another accident occurred to the express train from Edinburgh, due at Newcastle at two o'clock on Friday morning. When near Christon Bank station, fifty miles from Newcastle, three or four carriages were thrown off the line into a field, owing to the loosening of a rail. Twelve passengers were injured and others shaken. The third accident was a collision between the mail and a coal train at Brough, near Hull. Many of the passengers received a painful shock, and the carriages and trucks were much damaged.

**ADDRESS TO THE QUEEN FROM THE LONDON CONGREGATIONAL UNION.**—The following is an address prepared by the London Congregational Union on the marriage of the Duke of Edinburgh. It was engrossed on vellum, and forwarded to Her Majesty the Queen a few days since:—

TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

May it please your Majesty,  
We, your Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the members of the Congregational Union of London, desire to approach your Majesty to renew our homage



and to offer our hearty congratulations on the marriage of His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh with Her Imperial Highness the Grand Duchess Marie Alexandrovna of Russia.

Upon an occasion which has filled the hearts of your Majesty's people with joy and hope, we, as Protestant Nonconformists, cannot but remember that besides the benefits which we have shared with all our fellow-subjects, under the gracious reign of your Majesty, we have enjoyed under the rule of the illustrious House of Brunswick an extension of the inestimable blessings of civil and religious liberty. We rejoice in every event that can confirm the stability or enhance the lustre of a throne that is surrounded with the reverence and affection of a free people, and we pray that the alliance of the royal and imperial families of England and Russia formed by this marriage may strengthen the bonds of friendship between two great Christian empires to whose counsels Divine Providence has committed the peace of continents and the welfare of innumerable millions of mankind.

**NATIONAL REFORM UNION.**—The executive of the National Reform Union has issued a circular to its different branches calling attention to the following resolutions, which were adopted at a meeting held last week:—"1. That the present position of the Liberal party renders it imperative that immediate steps should be taken by the National Reform Union more fully to unite and organise the various Liberal associations, and to induce those Liberals who have hitherto remained unconnected with the union to enrol themselves. 2. That the branch associations of the union, already numbering upwards of three hundred, be recommended to take special means to strengthen their respective organisations, and to aid in the formation of new branches in the towns and villages in their immediate neighbourhood. 3. That the numerous Liberal clubs, registration societies, &c., in various parts of the country still unaffiliated, and also the election committees which have recently been in correspondence with the executive, be specially urged to join the union so as to be ready for combined action, or to press forward the important measures named in the following resolution to a legislative settlement, and that the leading officers of such organisations be at once desired to communicate with the executive. 4. That arrangements be made for a complete system of lectures, showing the necessity for equalising the suffrage in counties and boroughs, and a redistribution of electoral power by an equitable adjustment of seats, a reduction of the national expenditure, and an improvement in the laws of land tenure, with other measures of like importance, and that a conference of reformers be called as early as possible after the opening of Parliament. 5. That members of the union residing at a distance who are willing to help the executive in carrying out their scheme of lectures and organisation be specially invited to send in their names for that purpose."

### Glennings.

The *Builder* is in great trouble in consequence of the condition of the lions in Trafalgar-square. "In plain words, Landseer's lions are going to the dogs. The wearing, biting atmosphere of the metropolis is proving itself more than a match for the metal in which the statues are cast."

A Ritualist paper contains the following advertisement:—"Wanted, in a priest's large family, in the West of England, a strong, hard-working, intelligent woman, over thirty, to cook, and manage a dairy single-handed. Must be a good Churchwoman, an early riser, and not object to Australian meat."

A love-stricken gentleman, after conversing awhile with a lady on the subject of matrimony, concluded at last with the emphatic question, "Will you have me?" "I am very sorry to disappoint you," replied the lady, "and hope my refusal will not give you pain; but I must answer 'no.'" "Well, well, that will do," said her philosophical lover; "and now suppose we change the subject."

One day, when the Rev. Mr. Harness was staying at a famous country house, he found a gentleman pacing up and down the parlour in the most distracting agitation of mind. "Is there anything the matter?" inquired Mr. Harness, anxiously. "The matter!" he replied; "I should think there was! Three of the worst things that could possibly happen to a man: I'm in love, I'm in debt, and I've doubts about the doctrine of the Trinity!"

**HOW TO PRODUCE BRILLIANT PLUMAGE ON CANARIES.**—The brilliant colour of some of the canaries sent by a certain exhibitor from year to year to the bird shows of the Crystal Palace, gave rise (says the *Standard*) to the idea that the plumage was dyed; but the feathers being submitted to chemical analysis the suspicion was shown to be without foundation. The matter remained a mystery up to the past year, when it was discovered that the brilliancy of the colour was produced by feeding the birds on cayenne pepper and hard-boiled eggs, in the proportion of a teaspoonful of pepper to one egg—a diet which the birds seem thoroughly to enjoy, and which, whilst increasing the brilliancy of the appearance, in no way injures their health or their powers of vocalisation.

**THE RUSSOMANIA.**—A London correspondent of a country paper writes:—"Verily we are a city of snobs. No sooner are we out of election excitement than we turn our attention to the royal marriage, which the dissolution overshadowed, and all of a sudden become intensely Russian. Our fashionable shop-windows are full of Russian tweeds

fresh from Yorkshire and Bannockburn. Our fashionable jewellers show all manner of Russian jewellery fresh from the recesses of Birmingham and old stores which till now have been unsaleable. Our fashionable persons of both sexes are dressed out in Russian cloaks, hats, and bonnets. Where it is all going to end it would be difficult to say. Only a fashionable opera singer, a renewal of popular interest in the Claimant, or a fresh scandal, can save us from becoming as much Russianised as the good folks of St. Petersburg. Already the epidemic has reached the eel-pie shop, where the 'Romanoff dressing' in the matter of cooking is the luxury of the season."

**AMERICAN HUMOUR.**—At a late meeting of the Liberal Republican Committee at New York the chief subject of discussion was the despatch by President Grant of the Rev. J. P. Newman, ex-chaplain of the Senate, on a foreign mission, and the following resolutions were moved by Mr. Christopher Pullman, his object being, as he explained, to "expose the foolishness of President Grant, and the great absurdity of the mission on which he had sent the Rev. Mr. Newman":—"Resolved: That we are exceedingly gratified to hear occasionally from the Rev. J. P. Newman, 'special friend' of President Grant, Inspector of United States Consuls, and occupant of the pulpit of the Senate during the term of back-pay swindling, and are very much gratified by his reports. Resolved, however, that there are some things upon which he has failed to enlighten us; and we would request that in his next he tell us whether the youngest child of the consul at Foo-Chow has yet commenced to cut his or her teeth, and whether the measles has yet appeared in the family of the consul at Jeddo, and whether the wife of the consul at Honolulu received him (the Rev. J. P. Newman) in black silk or white tarlatan. Resolved: That as a matter of minor importance, would it be convenient for President Grant to tell us how much the pleasure excursion of the Rev. J. P. Newman is going to cost the country, and whether by a letter of inquiry addressed to a respectable merchant in one of the ports where we have consuls, we should not get the information that may be needed?" General Cochrane moved an amendment that "mumps" and "smallpox" be included in the queries, and this amendment having been "cheerfully accepted" by Mr. Pullman, a delegate rose and said he had a suggestion to make, but after a few minutes' reflection he confessed that he had forgotten it, and resumed his seat amid some laughter. The committee then adjourned, having made the resolutions the special order for their next meeting.—*Pall Mall Gazette*.

### Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

A uniform charge of One Shilling (prepaid) is made for announcements under this heading, for which postage-stamps will be received. All such announcements must be authenticated by the name and address of the sender.]

#### BIRTHS.

**MOSS.**—On Dec. 8, 1873, at Antananarivo, Madagascar, the wife of the Rev. Charles Frederick Moss, of the London Missionary Society, of a daughter.

**STENT.**—On Feb. 17, at 23, Langham-place, Northampton, the wife of the Rev. Herbert Stent, of a son.

#### MARRIAGES.

**CROSS-HULME.**—On Feb. 18, at the Independent Chapel, Burslem, by the Rev. John Fernie, assisted by the Rev. W. Davies, of Woolton, Mr. Alfred Cross, draper, of Woolton, near Liverpool, to Maria Selina, second daughter of Mr. Josh. Hulme, St. John's-square, Burslem.

**MORGAN-CROSSLEY.**—On Feb. 18, at the Saltire Congregational Church, by the pastor, the Rev. D. R. Cowan, Mr. Alderman Morgan, of Rotherham, to Annie E., the eldest daughter of the late David Crossley, Esq., attorney-at-law, Bradford.

**MILFORD-PINSENT.**—On Feb. 18, at Bloomsbury Chapel, by the Rev. Dr. Brock, Henry Milford, Esq., to Anna, daughter of the late Thomas Pincent, Esq., of Greenhill, Newton Abbot, Devonshire.

#### DEATHS.

**AYTON.**—On Feb. 19, at Brockdish, William Ayton, Esq., formerly of Scole, Norfolk, aged 77.

**BINNEY.**—On Feb. 24, at his residence, Upper Clapton, the Rev. Thomas Binney, LL.D., aged 76, minister of the King's Welsh House Chapel for upwards of forty years. Friends will kindly accept this intimation. Australian papers, please copy.

### FUNERAL REFORM.

The LONDON NECROPOLIS COMPANY conducts Funerals with simplicity, and with great economy. Prospectus free.—Chief Office, 2, Lancaster-place, Strand, W.C.

### BANK OF ENGLAND.

(From Wednesday's *Gazette*.)

An Account, pursuant to the Act 7th and 8th Victoria, cap. 32, for the week ending on Wednesday, Feb. 18, 1874.

#### ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes issued .... £37,018,280 Government Debt. £11,015,100  
Other Securities .. 3,984,900  
Gold Coin & Bullion 22,018,280  
Silver Bullion .... —

£37,218,280

£37,018,280

#### BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Proprietor's Capital £14,553,000 Government Securities, (inc. dead weight annuity) £18,896,607  
Reserve .. 3,461,501  
Public Deposits .. 7,788,394  
Other Deposits .. 18,106,523  
Seven Day and other Bills .... 377,502  
Notes .. 17,606,523  
Gold & Silver Coin 12,020,295  
763,108

£44,266,320

£44,266,320

Feb. 19, 1874.

F. MAY, Chief Cashier.

### Markets.

#### CORN EXCHANGE, MARK LANE, Monday, Feb. 23.

The fresh arrivals of English wheat were small for to-day's market, but imports of foreign grain are liberal. The return of mild weather has been against the trade, and we quote a reduction of 1s. per qr. on English wheat compared with the quotations of Monday week. Foreign wheat met a retail demand, and supported previous quotations. Flour was in slow demand, and prices were in favour of buyers. Peas and beans were without change. Indian corn was dull at 1s. decline. Barley of all descriptions was rather lower to sell. Oats were in fair supply, and most descriptions sold at a decline of 3d. to 6d. per qr. on the week. The demand for cargoes on the coast was slow, at a slight advance on wheat.

#### CURRENT PRICES.

WHEAT—	Per Qr.	Per Qr.	Per Qr.
Essex and Kent,	..	..	..
White fine ..	— to 67	Grey ..	36 to 39
" new ..	— 54	Maple ..	39 45
red fine ..	— 61	White, boilers ..	39 47
Ditto new ..	— 56	Foreign ..	40 44
Foreign red ..	58 60		
" white ..	63 65	RYE— ..	42 44
BARLEY—		OATS—	
Grinding ..	34 38	English feed ..	24 32
Chevalier ..	46 56	" potato ..	— —
Distilling ..	40 46	Scotch feed ..	— —
Foreign ..	40 44	" potato ..	— —
		Irish Black ..	24 28
MALT—		" White ..	23 29
Pale, new ..	73 78	Foreign feed ..	24 27
Chevalier ..	— —		
Brown ..	54 59		
		FLLOUR—	
BEANS—		Town made ..	50 57
Ticks ..	39 40	Best country ..	— —
Harrow ..	42 46	households ..	45 47
Pigeon ..	46 52	Norfolk and ..	— —
Egyptian ..	42 43	Suffolk ..	39 44

**METROPOLITAN CATTLE MARKET, Monday, Feb. 23.**—The total imports of foreign stock into London last week amounted to 9,701 head. In the corresponding week last year we received 5,002; in 1872, 12,624; in 1871, 4,477; and in 1870, 7,406 head. Notwithstanding that the supplies have been short, the cattle trade to-day has been very dull and prices have been decidedly lower. The arrivals of beasts from our own grazing districts have been only moderate, the general condition being indifferent. Nevertheless the market throughout has been dull, and prices have given way 4d. per 8lbs. The best Scots and crosses have been disposed of at from 5s. 8d. to 5s. 10d. per 8lbs. From Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex, and Cambridgeshire we received about 1,000; from Lincoln about 500; from other parts of England, about 800; and from Scotland, 180 head. On the foreign side of the market the show of stock has been limited, comprising about 300 Dutch and 50 Cornish. The demand has ruled heavy, and prices have declined 4d. per 8lb. As regards sheep the number offered has been moderate. The choicest small Downs have been in quiet request, and the best breeds have been disposed of at 6s. 8d. to 6s. 10d., but the best heavy sheep have not made more than 6s. 6d. per 8lbs. Inferior breeds have hung on hand. Calves have been dull and drooping in value. Pigs have commanded but little attention.

**METROPOLITAN MEAT MARKET, Monday, Feb. 23.**—There were moderate supplies of meat offering here to-day. The demand for all qualities was inactive, and prices in most cases favoured buyers.

**PROVISIONS, Monday, Feb. 23.**—The arrivals last week from Ireland were 149 firkins butter, and 3,601 bales bacon, and from foreign ports, 29,322 packages butter, 1,622 bales bacon. Normandy and Jersey butter have met with a steady sale, at little or no alteration in prices, but Dutch declined 4s. to 6s. per cwt.; the best 146s. to 150s. The Bacon market continues slow; no change made in price of best Waterford, but Limerick declined 1s., and Hamburg 2s. per cwt.

**COVENT GARDEN, Thursday, Feb. 19.**—The markets remain very quiet, orders from the provincial ones being limited to rough quantities in bulk at sale. Considerable quantities of common apples are still offered at low prices, especially from the West of England; good sorted varieties are in better request, and command prices ranging from 7s. to 10s. per bushel, but the American Newtown pippin takes the lead. English pears are nearly over, being confined to Ne plus Meuris and Beurré de Rance; those from the continent are nearly all culinary varieties, excepting some very good Easter Beurré. Amongst the retail quotations we note the following:—Strawberries, 5s. per oz.; Newtown pippins, 4s. to 6s. per doz.; Easter Beurré, 6s. to 8s. per doz.; Beurré de Rance, 18s. to 24s. per doz.; Malta blood oranges, 4s.; Tangerine oranges 1s. 6d. to 3s. per doz.; "Lyches," 5s. per lb.

**HOPS, BOROUGH, Monday, Feb. 23.**—The business transacted during the past week has been very limited, and of a retail character. Prices continue to be very uneven, and considerable reductions are generally submitted to. Mid and East Kent, 5l. 12s., 6l. 10s., 8l. 8s.; Walsall of Kent, 4l. 15s., 5l. 10s., 5l. 15s.; Sussex, 4l. 10s., 4l. 15s., 5l. 12s.; Farnham and Country, 5l. 12s., 6l. 10s., 7l. 10s.; Farnham, 7l. 0s., 8l. 0s.

**POTATOES.—BOROUGH AND SPITALFIELDS, Monday, Feb. 23.**—The supplies of potatoes on sale were very large, and prices in consequence were with much difficulty sustained. The imports into London last week consisted of 1,760 bags and 467 sacks from Boulogne, 1,941 tons 5,796 sacks and 295 bags from Dunkirk, 232 tons 9,114 bags and 914 sacks from Antwerp, 415 tons and 35 sacks from Rouen, 191 bags 2 sacks Harlingen, and 7 bags from Rotterdam. Best Regents, 115s. to 130s. per ton; Regents, 100s. to 110s. per ton; Flukes, 115s. to 150s. per ton; Rocks, 65s. to 85s. per ton.

**SEED, Monday, Feb. 23.**—Fine samples of English red cloverseed were in small supply, and brought very high prices. Medium and inferior qualities could be bought at low and irregular rates. The best white samples, foreign as well as English descriptions, were fully as dear, with a fair demand. Fine trefol was taken off in small parcels, at quite as much money. Canaryseed was unaltered in value for good samples. Large hempseed also realised as much money. Spring tares sold steadily, at the extreme currencies of last week. White mustardseed was taken off in small lots, at moderate quotations; but there was nothing passing in brown samples, for want of supply. English samples of rapeseed sold steadily at former prices.

**WOOL, Monday, Feb. 23.**—A tighter firmer tone is noticed in the wool trade. In English wool business has been on



moderate, but the tone has been steady. Colonial produce at public sales is selling with a fair amount of steadiness. Prices are without alteration.

**OIL, Monday, Feb. 23.**—Lined oil has been quiet and drooping in value. Rape has been rather lower. Other oils have sold slowly, and have been without alteration.

**COAL, Monday, Feb. 23.**—There being a large supply of house coal at market, a reduction of 6d. to 1s. per ton took place. Hettons, 25s.; Hettons Lyons, 20s. 9d.; Hartons, 20s. 9d.; Hawthorn, 20s. 9d. Ships for sale, 93; at sea, 15.

**BREAKFAST.—EPPS'S COCOA.—GRATEFUL AND COMFORTING.**—By a thorough knowledge of the natural laws which govern the operations of digestion and nutrition, and by a careful application of the fine properties of well-selected cocoas, Mr. Epps has provided our breakfast tables with a delicately flavoured beverage which may save us many heavy doctors' bills. Civil Service Gazette. Made simply with Boiling Water or Milk. Each packet is labelled—"JAMES EPPS & CO., Homoeopathic Chemists, London."

**JUDSON'S SIMPLE DYES** are exceedingly useful household commodities. The process is simple, and result satisfactory, as applied to woollen and silk articles. Shetland shawls or cloths that have become yellow are good subjects for young beginners in the art of dyeing. A basin of water only required; time, five minutes! Judson's Dyes, 6d. per bottle, eighteen colours, of all Chemists and Stationers.

**JUST OUT.—THE HINDOO PEN.**—"Shrewsbury Journal" says:—"They are the best pens invented, and it is only bare justice to the patentees to record the fact." They come as a boon and a blessing to men, the Pickwick, the Owl, and the Waverley Pen. 1,200 newspapers recommend Macniven and Cameron's pens. Sold everywhere. Sample box, by post, 1s. 1d.—23 to 33, Blair-street, Edinburgh.

**MASSAGE OF THE INNOCENTS.**—Parents valuing their children's safety will avoid soothing medicines containing opium, so frequently fatal to infants, and will use only "Stedman's Teething Powders," which are the safest and best, being free from opium. Prepared by a surgeon (not a chemist) having special experience in children's diseases, whose name, "Stedman," has but one "e" in it. Trade mark, a Gum Lancel. Refuse all others. Also Materfamilias Pills, a tasteless and efficient substitute for Castor Oil. Price 2s. 3d. per box. Depot—East-road, Hoxton, London, N.

The Rev. JOHN HATTENBURY writes, April 5, 1872:—"I have no hesitation in declaring that Turner's Tamarind Emulsion soothes and removes bronchial irritation and gives strength and tone to the voice." Oct. 8, 1872, the Rev. G. C. Harvard writes: "We always keep the Tamarind Emulsion in our house; it is an excellent thing for hoarseness, and clears the voice most effectually." 133d. and 2s. 9d. per bottle. Sold at 4, Chesapeake; 150, Oxford-street, W.; and all leading chemists in the kingdom.

**KINAHAN'S LL WHISKY.**—This most celebrated and delicious old mellow spirit is the very cream of Irish Whiskies, in quality unrivalled, perfectly pure, and more wholesome than the finest Cognac Brandy. Note the Red Seal, Pink label, and Cork branded "Kinahan's LL Whisky." Wholesale, 20, Great Titchfield-street, Oxford-st., W.

**HOLLOWAY'S OINTMENT AND PILLS.**—Unwholesome Changes.—The changeable weather is causing much sickness and exerting the most powerful influence in deranging the secretions of the body. Alternating chills and fogs so derange the capillary circulation, that the liver, stomach, or lungs must become disordered. Holloway's Ointment well rubbed over these parts twice a day proves the quickest, safest, and best corrective. It penetrates the skin, enters the deeper structures, purifies the blood, rouses torpid organs to more active exertion, cleanses their substance, equalises their circulation, and renders their secretions abundant without annoying, irritating, or in any way depressing, much less exhausting, the vital forces. Holloway's medicaments afford an easy means of curing coughs, colds, influenza, and asthmatic affections.

### Advertisements.

**REV. W. E. BOARDMAN and R. PEARSALL SMITH, Esq.,** will hold SPECIAL MEETINGS at King's Cross for the PROMOTION of HOLINESS every day next week as follows:—TONBRIDGE CHAPEL, Euston-road, MONDAY, WEDNESDAY, and FRIDAY, 3.30 and 7.30; and VERNON CHAPEL, King's Cross-road, TUESDAY, THURSDAY, and SATURDAY, at 3.30 and 7.30. Tea provided at 5.30.

**A COMFORTABLE HOME** is OFFERED to a City GENTLEMAN in a Villa pleasantly situated near Addison-station. Frequent Trains to City and West-end. Terms moderate.—T., Mr. Pattison, 10, Cullum-street, City, E.C.

**TO PARENTS and GUARDIANS.**—A VACANCY occurs for an APPRENTICE in the establishment of Mesdames Le Boutillier, BERLIN WOOL WAREHOUSE, 125, Oxford-street, London, W. Every description of Fancy Needlework taught. Premium required.

**CASTLE CARY, SOMERSET.—TO BE LET** for One Year, or a term of years, or may be purchased if required, A COMMODIOUS DWELLING HOUSE, SHOP, and PREMISES, suitable for a Draper or Ironmonger, for either of which trades there is a good opening. Apply to the Proprietor, Mr. John Boyd, Castle Cary, Somerset.

**ORPHAN WORKING SCHOOL, HAVERSTOCK-HILL, N.W.**

390 orphans are now under care. Nearly 3,000 have been admitted, 77 during the last year. Of all the applicants during the last 10 years, three-fourths have been admitted. Children of both sexes are eligible between 7 and 11 years of age. The education is superior, and fits them for useful life. As the charity depends mainly upon voluntary support, CONTRIBUTIONS are earnestly solicited.

JOHN KEMP WELCH, Treasurer.  
JOSEPH SOUL, Secretary.

Office, 73, Chesapeake, E.C.

Bankers—London Joint-Stock Bank, E.C.

**ALEXANDRA ORPHANAGE for INFANTS, HORNSEY-RISE, N.**

FUNDS are earnestly solicited for this unendowed Charity, which has no funded property, depending upon voluntary support. Candidates from any part of the Kingdom are eligible if under five years of age, and should be at once put upon the list for the next election.

JOSEPH SOUL, Hon. Sec.

No. 73, Chesapeake, E.C.

The LIST will CLOSE for LONDON on SATURDAY, 28th inst., and for COUNTRY, 2nd MARCH.

### THE BIRKBECK PROPERTY INVESTMENT TRUST.

29 and 30, Southampton-buildings, Chancery-lane, London.

AMOUNT £500,000.

Of which upwards of £100,000 have been privately subscribed, represented by Certificates, bearing 5 per cent. interest, of £100, £50, and £25 each, payable to bearer:

#### THE PRICE BEING

Class A, £38.....for the £100 Certificates,  
Class B, £44.....for those of £50, and  
Class C, £22.....for those of £25.  
The whole paying about £5 13s. 6d. per cent. free of income-tax.

#### BANKERS.

Union Bank of London, Chancery-lane.  
Birkbeck Bank, Southampton-buildings, Chancery-lane.

#### ABRIDGED PROSPECTUS.

House and Shop Properties, when judiciously purchased and managed, are very remunerative. They not only produce an immediate return upon the capital invested, but they increase in value year by year; the precise amount depending on the nature of the properties and the locality in which they are situated.

According to the lengthened experience (nearly twenty-three years) of the directors of the Birkbeck Building Society (the largest in the United Kingdom), houses and shops in every part of London and its immediate suburbs have, in numerous instances, doubled in rental value within the last twenty-five years; the causes which have operated to produce this rise are still active and continuous. It is not rare, indeed, to find that a house which would have been deemed highly rented twenty years ago at £40 is, at the present day, considered cheaply rented at £80 or £90. In many cases rents have quadrupled in amount within the same period of time, and there appears to be no limit to the increase within a radius of about four miles from the General Post Office. In isolated localities, where rents have fallen, it will be found that there are special causes to account for the depreciation.

Notwithstanding these facts, there are few associations having for their object the investment of money in the purchase of houses and shops, and those existing are on a very limited scale. Building Societies, which are popularly supposed to buy and sell houses, do not act in a corporate capacity; they restrict their operations to advancing money to their members for this purpose, and each member acts for himself. In the purchase of a house or shop the member studies his own special wants and wishes, and perhaps finds that he has made an imprudent purchase. On the other hand, another member buys a house which by some fortuitous circumstance or the natural rise in value turns out to be a very lucrative investment. These are the opposite results of individual action. That the general results are favourable to the members as a body, the position of all well-managed Building Societies sufficiently proves, for they exhibit unmistakable signs of prosperity, and their shares bear a high premium. As an instance, the last annual report (the twenty-second) of the Birkbeck Building Society states that shares issued by it in 1863, on which (omitting fractions) £30 have been paid, are now worth £72; those issued in 1865, amount paid £34, are worth £52; while those issued in 1870, on which £11 only have been paid, are worth £15 at the present time.

These facts furnish sufficient evidence that house and shop property, when dealt with on a large scale, affords a safe and lucrative investment; but to ensure the most favourable terms the transactions must be on a wide basis—dealing with houses of all classes—as the means by which a fair profit can be secured. On this principle the Birkbeck Property Investment Trust will proceed—a principle somewhat analogous to that of an insurance office, where profit is made by multiplying its risks, and extending the area of its transactions.

The operations of the Trust will be to purchase houses and shops, with their fixtures, fittings, &c., in settled and improving localities in London and its suburbs. Arrangements have already been made, contingent upon the amount of the certificates taken up, to enter into possession of a considerable number of houses, so that the capital represented by the certificates may yield an immediate return; but in the event of the amount subscribed being in excess of the value of the properties taken over, and arranged to be purchased, the surplus will be temporarily invested in mortgages, or in readily convertible securities, yielding sufficient to pay the interest on the certificates.

The annual receipts from the rents of the houses, shops, and other properties purchased will be applied by the trustees, after deducting expenses, in paying interest on the certificates. The excess, together with the proceeds of properties which may be sold when favourable opportunities arise, will be applied as a sinking fund in repaying the certificates at par, by annual drawings, extending over a period of twenty-five years. A sum, varying in amount from one to five per cent., in value of the certificates, will be paid off annually. At the expiration of fifteen years from the date of the first drawing the holders of the certificates then undrawn will become entitled to the absolute reversion of the whole of the properties then belonging to the trust, subject to a deduction of one-tenth, as after noted. The trust will be finally closed after the 25th year, the properties sold, and the proceeds distributed, nine-tenths among the holders of the above-mentioned certificates, and the remaining tenth among the holders of the certificates of reversion, representing the certificates drawn during the first fifteen years of the trust.

The advantages of the Birkbeck Property Investment Trust may be thus summed up:

- (1.) Interest at the rate of £5 13s. 6d. per cent. on the amount subscribed, free of income-tax.
- (2.) A bonus of £12 per cent. by the repayment of capital at par.
- (3.) A rateable bonus of £10 per cent. on the value of the properties belonging to the Trust when it is finally closed; or
- (4.) An equal share in the properties possessed by the Trust at the end of the fifteenth year, on the terms and conditions set forth in the deed constituting the Trust.

The Trust will be under the management of the Directors of the old established Birkbeck Building Society, together with a council of certificate-holders, whose duties will be to audit the accounts of the Trust. In terms of the Deed of Trust it is provided that the members of the board shall receive no remuneration for their services until the annual produce arising from the Trust properties shall reach £25,000, being five per cent. on the amount to be raised. It is further provided that the expenses of management shall be limited to one per cent. on the amount to be raised under the Trust, while the preliminary expenses, including the stamp duty payable under the Act, are fixed at

one and a quarter per cent. Any further expenses will be borne by the promoters of the Trust.

The issue of the certificates, all payable to bearer, and yielding 5 per cent. interest on the nominal amount, will be in three classes, as follows: Class A for £100, costing £38; Class B for £50, costing £44; and Class C for £25, costing £22; thus realising about £5 13s. 6d. per cent. per annum on the amount paid, free of income-tax, with the additional advantage of the annual drawings and reversions.

Interest Coupons will be attached to each certificate, payable as after noted, and in addition a certificate of reversion entitling the holder to a share in the divisible surplus accruing to the Certificate-holders at the close of the Trust, or to receive a fixed sum at any time previously, in terms of the Deed of Trust.

Applications for certificates to be made in the form accompanying the Prospectus, and payments made as follows, viz.: Eight per Cent. on the application, Ten per Cent. on allotment, and the balance by instalments of Ten per Cent. at intervals of three months, the first instalment after allotment being payable on March 31.

In cases where no allotment is made the deposit will be returned in full, and where the certificates allotted represent a smaller amount than that applied for the surplus deposit will be credited towards the amount payable on allotment. Subscribers may at any time after allotment anticipate the payment of their instalments, and will be allowed a discount at the rate of 25 per cent. per annum. The non-payment of any instalment will render all previous payments liable to forfeiture.

Script certificates will be issued to subscribers after allotment, and will be exchanged for the certificates as early as possible after the last instalment is paid. Coupons for the payment of interest on the instalments will be attached to each script certificate, which interest will commence from the 31st of March, 1874 (being the date of payment of the first instalment after the allotment), and will be due on the 31st of September and the 31st of March in each year, and be payable at the Birkbeck Bank on the fourteenth day thereafter.

The drawings will take place in the presence of a notary public, in the month of December in each year, the first drawing being in December, 1875. The certificates drawn will be duly advertised, and be payable at par on the 1st of July following. An equal number in value of each class of certificates will participate in the annual drawings.

The Deed under which the Trust is constituted, together with Forms of the Certificates, may be seen at the Birkbeck Bank, Southampton-buildings, Chancery-lane, London, W.C.

Prospectuses and Forms of Application for Certificates may be obtained of the Union Bank of London and its Branches, and also of the Birkbeck Bank, where Subscriptions will be received.

FRANCIS RAVENSCROFT, Manager.

London, 9th February, 1874.

#### FORM OF APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATE.

Having paid to your credit the sum of £....., being a deposit at the rate of 8 per cent. on Certificates of the nominal value of £....., I hereby request that you will allot to me Certificates of this amount in the Birkbeck Property Investment Trust; and I hereby agree to accept the same, or any lesser amount that may be allotted to me, and to pay the balance of the price at the rates and on the days set forth in the Prospectus of the Trust, subject to the conditions contained therein and in the deed constituting the Trust.

Name in full.....  
Profession or Business.....  
Residence.....

#### THE ANNUAL RECEIPTS of the BIRKBECK BUILDING SOCIETY EXCEED THREE MILLIONS.

**FIFTY THOUSAND POUNDS** ready to be advanced by the BIRKBECK BUILDING SOCIETY on Freehold and Leasehold Securities, at FIVE and SIX PER CENT. INTEREST. For Fixed Terms, or Repayable by Easy Instalments.

#### HOW TO PURCHASE A HOUSE for TWO GUINEAS per MONTH.

With immediate Possession and no Rent to Pay. Apply at the Office of the BIRKBECK BUILDING SOCIETY, 29 and 30, Southampton-buildings, Chancery-lane.

#### HOW TO PURCHASE A PLOT of LAND for FIVE SHILLINGS per month with IMMEDIATE POSSESSION, either for building or gardening purposes.

Apply at the office of the BIRKBECK FREEHOLD LAND SOCIETY, 29 and 30, Southampton-buildings, Chancery-lane.

#### BIRKBECK BANK. ESTABLISHED 1831. 29 and 30, SOUTHAMPTON-BUILDINGS, CHANCERY-LANE.

Deposits received at Four per Cent. Interest. Current Accounts opened similar to the Joint Stock Banks, but without any stipulation as to amount of balance to be kept by the customer. Cheques Books supplied. Purchases and Sales effected of English, Foreign, and Colonial Bonds, and advances made thereon. Office hours from 10 till 4, on Mondays from 10 till 9, and on Saturdays from 10 till 2 o'clock. A small Pamphlet containing full particulars may be obtained gratis, or sent post free on application to FRANCIS RAVENSCROFT, Manager.

#### LONDON.—SHIRLEY'S TEMPERANCE HOTEL, 57, Queen-square, Bloomsbury W.C. Beds, from 1s. 6d. Plain Breakfast or Tea, 1s. 3d.

See Testimonials, of which there are a thousand in the Visitors' Book.

"We are more than satisfied; we are truly delighted to find in London so quiet and comfortable a domicile. We shall certainly highly recommend Shirley's to all our friends."—J. ROBERTS, Bourne.

"As on all previous visits I can testify that this is the most comfortable home I had when away from home."—W. B. HARVEY, Frome.

"After visiting various places in England, I have come to consider Shirley's (in view of its combining the greatest comfort and respectability, with the most moderate charges) as the Temperance Hotel par excellence."—J. K. KARCHER, Toronto, C.W.

**ASTHMA.—AUBREE'S SPECIFIC.**—The only medicine which effectually cures this malady (also Bronchitis) may now be obtained of Delany, Davies, and Co., 1, Cecil-street, Strand, Sole Agents. Send Stamp for pamphlet.



**COOK'S TRAVELLING ARRANGEMENTS** for AMERICA.—Through Tickets from England, Ireland, and Scotland, by all lines of ocean steamers, and by American railroads, to all chief places in the United States and Canada. **CIRCULAR TICKETS**, for long or short tours, to all points of tourist interest. Mr. THOS. COOK will accompany a **TOURIST PARTY**, leaving London April 17, to New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington, Richmond, Virginia, Allegheny, Cincinnati, Mammoth Cave, St. Louis, Chicago, Detroit, Niagara Falls, Toronto, Quebec, Portland, Boston, New York, and back to England, including all expenses of baggage, sleeping cars, and hotel accommodation. First class all the way for £80 out and home. See Programmes to be had at Cook's Tourist Offices at Birmingham, Manchester, Leicester, &c., and at Chief Offices (by post for a penny stamp) of

THOS. COOK and SON, Ludgate-circus, London.

**COOK'S EASTERN TOURS.**—Several parties having been completed for Egypt, the Nile, Sinai, Petra, Moab, the Hauran, and Palestine, a **FINAL PARTY** for the season for Egypt, Palestine, Turkey, Greece, &c., will leave London March 6 or 13, including Central or Northern Italy, spending April in Palestine, including the celebrations of the Latin and Greek Easter, under personal escort. Early application to be made to

THOS. COOK and SON, Ludgate-circus, London.

**COOK'S ELEVENTH ANNUAL EASTER TOUR** to ROME and all parts of Italy will leave London for Nice, Marseilles, &c., to Italy on Friday, March 13, and to Italy direct by Mont Cenis on Friday, March 20. See Programmes, to be had (if by post in return for penny stamp) of

THOS. COOK and SON, Ludgate-circus, London.

**CLERICAL, MEDICAL and GENERAL LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.**  
13, St. James's-square, London, S.W.  
City Branch: Mansion House Buildings, E.C.

#### FINANCIAL RESULTS.

The Annual Income, steadily increasing, exceeds £249,000  
The Assurance Fund, safely invested, is over £1,880,000  
The New Policies in the last Year were 457, assuring £304,457  
The New Annual Premiums were £9,770  
The Bonus added: o Policies in Jan., 1872, was £323,871  
The Total Claims by Death paid amount to £3,169,801  
The subsisting Assurances and Bonuses amount to £5,773,144

#### DISTINCTIVE FEATURES.

CREDIT of half the first five annual Premiums allowed on whole-term Policies on healthy Lives not over sixty years of age.

ENDOWMENT ASSURANCES granted, without Profits, payable at death or on attaining a specified age.

INVALID LIVES assured at rates proportioned to the risk.

CLAIMS paid thirty days after proof of death.

#### REPORT, 1873.

The 49th Annual Report just issued, and the Balance Sheets for the year ending June 30, 1873, as rendered to the Board of Trade, can be obtained at either of the Society's Offices, or of any of its Agents.

GEORGE CUTCLIFFE, Actuary and Secretary.

**MONEY, TIME, AND LIFE** are lost in the event of **ACCIDENTAL INJURY OR DEATH.**

Provide against these losses by a Policy of the

**RAILWAY PASSENGERS' ASSURANCE COMPANY**

**Against ACCIDENTS OF ALL KINDS.**

The oldest and largest Accidental Assurance Company.

Hon. A. KINNAIRD, M.P., Chairman.

PAID-UP CAPITAL and RESERVE FUND, £140,000.

ANNUAL INCOME, £180,000.

£810,000 HAVE BEEN PAID AS COMPENSATION.

Bonns allowed to Insurers of Five Years' Standing.

Apply to the Clerks at the Railway Stations, the Local Agents, or

64, CORNHILL, and 10, REGENT-STREET, LONDON.

WILLIAM J. VIAN, Secretary.

**MR. COOKE BAINES, SURVEYOR and VALUER, PREPARES and NEGOTIATES COMPENSATION CLAIMS** for Property Compulsorily taken for Railways and other Improvements, and also Values property for every purpose.—25, Finsbury-place, Moorgate-street, E.C.

**OLD COINS for SALE.**—Gold, Silver, Copper, Saxon, English, Roman, Greek, &c. Lists free. J. VERITY, Earlsheaton, Dewsbury.

#### THE BLOOD PURIFIER.

**NO ONE SHOULD BE WITHOUT THE BLOOD PURIFIER.**—Old Dr. Jacob Townsend's Sarsaparilla is the great purifier of the blood, it effects the most salutary changes in disease; cures scrofula, scorbutic disorders, chronic sore eyes, rheumatism, piles, liver complaints, erysipelas, all blotches and eruptions of the skin, it removes every impurity of the blood, and all humours and morbid collections of the body, in short, it acts like a charm. In bottles, 2s. 6d., 4s. 6d., 7s. 6d., 1 s. 6d. Pills and Ointment, each in boxes, 1s. 1½d., 2s. 9d., 4s. 6d., by post for 1s. 3d. and 6d. stamps. Sold by all Druggists. Chief Depot, 131, Fleet-street, London. Get the red and blue wrapper with the old Dr.'s head in the centre.

**ROYAL POLYTECHNIC.**—DAILY, at 4 and 9. —The new Grand Historical, Nautical, Chemical, Botanical, Zoological, Geographical, Biographical, Ethnological, and Polytechnical INCOHERENCY, entitled **RALEIGH'S QUEER DREAM**! or, the **PIPE**! the **POTATO**! and the **PIXIE**! written by Dr. CROFT (the Managing Director). The disc pictures from original designs by Mr. Wm. BRUNTON. The Entertainment by Mr. J. OSCAR HARTWELL, Misses KATE BROOKS, BARTLETT and WESTBROOK; Messrs. FULLER and MARSDEN—**LIGHT and COLOUR**, and the **SILBER LIGHT**, by Prof. GARDNER.—The **BRIGHTON AQUARIUM**, by Mr. KING.—The **ASHANTEE WAR**.—Open, 12 till 5, and 7 till 10. Admission, 1s. Carriages at 5 and 10.

**COALS.—LEA and CO'S PRICES.**—Hetton or Lambton, 33s.; Wallsend Seconda, 32s.; best Wigan, 30s.; best Silkstone, 30s.; new Silkstone, 28s.; Best Clay Cross, 30s.; Clay Cross Seconda, 28s.; Derby Bright, 27s.; Barnsley, 27s.; Kitchen, 25s.; Hartley, 24s.; Cobble, 23s.; Nuts, 23s.; Steam, 23s.; Coke, 19s. per 12 sacks. Net cash. Delivered thoroughly screened. Depôts, Highbury and Highgate, N.; Kingland, E.; Beauvoir Wharf, Kingland-road; Great Northern Railway Stations, King's-cross and Holloway; and 4 and 5 Wharves, Regent's-park-basin.

**COALS.—GEORGE J. COCKERELL and Co.**, Coal Merchants to the Queen and to the Royal Family. Best "Wall's-end, 33s.; best Island, 30s.; best Coke, 19s.—cash on delivery. Central Office, 13, Cornhill; West End Office, next Grosvenor Hotel, Piccadilly.

**ONE THOUSAND SHEETS (42 Quires) of good CREAM-LAID NOTE, and 1,000 ENVELOPES**, suitable for the Clergy, Gentry, and Family use, on receipt of P.O.O. for 10s. 6d.; 500 each, 5s. 6d.; 2,000 each, 20s.

THOMAS M. WOOD, Wholesale Stationer, 24, Milk-street, London, E.C. Established fifty years.

N.B.—Card Plate and 100 Transparent Ivory Cards, 3s.; Ladies', 3s. 6d.

The Use of

#### THE GLENFIELD STARCH

Always secures

The Delight of the Landress,

The Admiration of the Beholder,

And the Comfort of the Wearer.

**W. G. NIXEY'S Refined BLACK LEAD.**  
"CLEANLINESS."

The Proprietor begs to CAUTION the Public against being imposed upon by unprincipled tradesmen, who, with a view of deriving greater profit, are manufacturing and vending SPURIOUS IMITATIONS of the above article.

Ask for

W. G. NIXEY'S BLACK LEAD.

And see that you have it.—12, Soho-square, London, W.

**SOME OF THE MOST EMINENT PHYSICIANS OF THE DAY RECOMMEND**

#### WATERS' QUININE WINE

As the best Restorative for the Weak.

Sold by all Grocers.

**WATERS AND SON,**

34, EASTCHEAP, E.C.

**RHEUMATISM, LUMBAGO, CHILBLAINS, AND BRUISES,**

USE THE CELEBRATED EMBROCATION,  
**DREDGE'S HEAL ALL,**

Which affords instant relief.

Prepared only by **BARCLAY & SONS**, 95, Farringdon-street, London, and sold by Chemists and Druggists.

It is most serviceable for Chilblains before they are broken.  
Price 1s. 1½d. per bottle.

**HYDROPATHY!—JACKSON HOUSE, MATLOCK BANK, DERBYSHIRE.**

Resident Proprietors and Managers—Mr. and Mrs. GEORGE BARTON.

The house is replete with every convenience for the full prosecution of the Hydropathic System, and possesses a high character for cleanliness and comfort. Jackson House, from its sheltered position and internal arrangement, is eminently adapted for pursuing the system during the autumn and winter months.

Terms—from 24s. 6d. to 31s. 6d. per week.  
Prospectuses on application.

**"FOR the BLOOD is the LIFE."**—See Deuteronomy, chap. xii, verse 23.

**CLARKE'S WORLD-FAMED BLOOD MIXTURE.**

The GREAT BLOOD PURIFIER and RESTORER. For cleansing and clearing the blood from all impurities, cannot be too highly recommended.

For Scrofula, Scurvy, Skin Diseases, and sores of all kinds, it is a never-failing and permanent cure.

It Cures Old Sores,  
Cures Ulcerated Sores on the Neck,  
Cures Ulcerated Sore Legs,  
Cures Blackheads, or Pimples on the Face,  
Cures Scurvy Sores,  
Cures Cancerous Ulcers,  
Cures Blood and Skin Diseases,  
Cures Glandular Swellings,  
Clears the Blood from all Impure Matter.  
From whatever cause arising.

As this Mixture is pleasant to the taste, and warranted free from anything injurious to the most delicate constitution of either sex, the Proprietor solicits sufferers to give it a trial to test its value.

Thousands of Testimonials from all parts.

Sold in bottles, 2s. 3d. each, and in cases containing six times the quantity, 11s. each—sufficient to effect a permanent cure in the great majority of long-standing cases.—BY ALL CHEMISTS and PATENT MEDICINE VENDORS throughout the United Kingdom and the world, or sent to any address on receipt of 27 or 132 stamps by

P. J. CLARKE, Chemist, High-street, Lincoln.

Wholesale—All Patent Medicine Houses.

**"YOUR (Dr. LOCOCK'S) PULMONIC WAFERS** are invaluable for the Voice, Throat, and Chest. All persons suffering from Bronchitis, Hacking Cough, and Deprivation of Rest, should take them."—From Mr. Earle, M.P.S., 22, Market-place, Hull. In Asthma, Consumption, Bronchitis, Coughs, Colds, Gout, Rheumatism, and all Hysterical and Nervous Pains, instant relief is given by Dr. Locock's Wafers, which taste pleasantly. Sold by all Druggists, at 1s. 1½d. per box.

**FARM LANDS FOR SALE in the UNITED STATES.**

The Burlington and Missouri-River Railroad Company offers for Sale, at a Low Price, on For, Six, or Ten Years' Credit, with interest at favourable rates, and in quantities to suit purchasers, its Lands in the great Agricultural States of

IOWA AND NEBRASKA.

eligibly situated on the Chicago and Burlington Railway route between the Atlantic and the Pacific.

Full information in reference to the character and cost of these Lands, and to the Rates of Passage by Steamship and Railway to the Western and Pacific States, by the above-named route, may be had on application by letter or in person, at any of the offices of the Company in the United Kingdom; also, a Handbook for the use of intending Emigrants.

Liverpool: 16, South Castle-street.

London: 13, Queen Victoria-street, E.C.

HAMILTON A. HILL, General Agent.

**REMOVING or WAREHOUSING FURNITURE, &c.**, application should be made to the **BEDFORD PANTHEON COMPANY (Limited)** for their Prospectus. Removals effected by large railway vans. Estimates free. Advances made if required.—Address, Manager, 194, Tottenham-court-road, W.C.

#### ASTHMA AND BRONCHITIS.

"In several attacks of sub-acute Bronchitis, attended with painfully suffocative sensations, I have been immediately relieved by smoking SAVORY and MOORE'S DATURA TATULA, and equally beneficial results I have known to be produced in many other cases."—Dr. Barker on the Respiratory Organs, &c.

"It had the most magical effect I ever witnessed."—Dr. McVeagh.

Sold in tins, 2s. 6d. to 18s. Cigars and Cigarettes, in boxes, 3s. to 15s. Pastilles for inhalation, in boxes, 2s. 6d. to 10s.

Wholesale and Retail by

**SAVORY and MOORE,**  
143, NEW BOND STREET, LONDON, W.

And of all Chemists in the Kingdom, who also supply SAVORY and MOORE'S FRICTION GLOVES and BELTS. The "Kheesah," "The best rubber for the skin in existence."—Erasmus Wilson, F.R.S.

**SAMUEL BROTHERS**  
50, LUDGATE-HILL, LONDON.

**MERCHANT TAYLORS, BOYS' OUTFITTERS, &c.**

**SAMUEL BROTHERS'** vast Stock (the largest in London) is divided into Nine Classes. Each piece of cloth and every garment is marked the class to which it belongs, and the price in plain figures.

**SAMUEL BROTHERS.—GENTLEMEN'S and YOUTHS' ATTIRE.**

Accurate Fit.  
High-class Style.  
Durable Materials.  
Value for Money.  
Best Workmanship.  
Permanent Colours.  
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The Afternoon Sitting will commence at Three p.m. After Devotions, HENRY WRIGHT, Esq., J.P., one of the Delegates of the Union at the Conference held in Birmingham on Church Finance in last December, will give a brief account of its proceedings; and a Resolution will then be submitted, appointing Delegates to the adjourned Conference to be held in June next.

Tea will be provided in the Weigh-House Schoolrooms, at Five o'clock.

The Evening Sitting will commence at Six o'clock, when the Chairman will deliver a brief Address; and the remainder of the Sitting will be devoted to prayer and conference in relation to the Special Services held in connection with the Union, their Lessons, Results, and how they may be followed up.

Only Ministers and Delegates will be admitted to the Afternoon Sitting. In the Evening the Galleries will be open to the public. Church Members especially are invited.

JOHN NUNN, Secretary.

February, 1874.

**TETTENHALL COLLEGE, STAFFORDSHIRE.**

HEAD MASTER.

ALEXANDER WAUGH YOUNG, Esq., M.A. Lond. (Gold Medalist in Classics); late Andrews Scholar, and First Prizeman in Higher Senior Mathematics, of University College, London; Fellow of University College, London.

SECOND MASTER.

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ASSISTANT MASTERS.

R. B. CONNELL, Esq., Exhibitioner, Cargill Scholar, and Prizeman of the University of Aberdeen.  
E. DARBY, Esq., B.A. Lond.  
HENRY TAYLER, Esq.  
W. M. ELLIS, Esq.

WM. EBELING, Esq., of the University of Gottingen, Certificated by the Imperial Prussian Government.

EXTRA MASTERS.

ARCHIBALD GUNN, Esq., Student Royal Academy of Arts, London, Drawing.  
THOMAS ROBERTS, Esq., Chemistry.

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Applications to Head Master, or to the Sec., the Rev. F. P. ROWE, M.A., Tettenhall, Wolverhampton.

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